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Protect yourself vs COVID-19 during Pacific Mini Games. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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'We're mandated to adjust rates'

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Faced with a barrage of criticism on social media about the increasing power rates, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho explained that CUC's power rates are a function of the global price of fuel and that CUC adjusts its electric rates not because it wants to but because it is mandated to do so.

Camacho

See RATES on Page 4

MONSTER BIRD KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Air Tahiti's B787 is seen parked at the runway of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday, soon after bringing in 290 athletes who will participate in the upcoming Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022. This is by far the largest passenger aircraft to touch down at the Saipan airport. The largest plane to have ever landed on Saipan was the cargo airplane Antonov AN-225 that brought relief supplies to the CNMI in 2018 after the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu. That plane was destroyed in Russia's attack on Ukraine.

See story on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

OAG to oppose expanded jury pool for Torres' trial

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has informed the court that it intends to oppose Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' recent motion requesting a jury pool comprising jurors from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

During a case management conference last Monday, OAG chief solicitor Robert Glass informed Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino that he intends to submit an

See OAG on Page 4

TO SUPPORT MARITIME WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN CNMI

USDOC's EDA awards $1.6M to 500 Sails

» Grant will enable 500 Sails to build Maritime Training Center

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo announced yesterday that the department's Economic Development Administration is awarding a $1.6-million grant to 500 Sails Inc.to support maritime workforce development. This grant is funded by the American

See EDA on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
More than 10,000 visitors were ordered out of Yellowstone as flooding tore through the park.
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ASIA
A landmark floating restaurant is towed from the Hong Kong harbor—another pandemic casualty.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
Korean global superstars BTS said they are taking time out to focus on solo projects.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Admin leave OK'd for NMI's NMPMG athletes, coaches, others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres has granted administrative leave to all government employees that are involved in the June 17 to 25 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

At a press briefing last Friday, Torres said he was happy to grant the administrative leave to government employees who are athletes, coaches, or part of the Pacific Mini Games' organizational committee.

Torres

"I just want to let everybody know that I am 100% supportive of our athletes, coaches and everyone that showcases the CNMI as a whole," the governor said.

Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter said at the same press briefing that the facilities for the events are "looking awesome, looking great."

"We've been pushing our contractors to finish up [with the] final touches on the baseball field, the track and field," said Peter, who also talked about the preparations of facilities for other sports.

Peter

On giving cash incentives to CNMI medalists, Peter said it's a big deal for the CNMI as the athletes deserve the best, since they take time out of their work, practice in the morning and work during the day.

"They do everything because they are representing what's in front of their jersey. So I'm so proud of them and I wish them well," he said.

The Pacific Mini Games, which will kick off tomorrow, Friday, will be held on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Twenty countries and territories will participate in nine sports.

McDonald's welcomes NMPMG athletes with mural art

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

McDonald's of Saipan unveiled yesterday a sports-related mural painted at the main entrance of its Chalan Kiya branch that celebrates the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games and will greet the restaurant's customers only from June 15 through June 30.

From left, MGOC CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, McDonald's executive assistant Mable Ayuyu Glenn, McDonald's vice president Marcia Ayuyu holding baby Caden, and MGOC chairman Marco Peter is seen in front of the mural dedicated to the Mini Games painted by Yolani Camacho which is donned at the main McDonald's restaurant in Chalan Kiya.

The mural, whose unveiling was attended by Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter and CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, serves as a backdrop to welcome athletes, coaches and visitors from all around the Pacific.

It alsoaims to make McDonald's part of the conversation when it comes to the Pacific Mini Games, according to McDonald's of Saipan vice president Marcia Ayuyu.

"We wanted McDonald's to become a part of the social conversation surrounding the upcoming Pacific Mini Games. By featuring this unique artwork at one of our restaurants, we get to be a part of that conversation and experience that our customers have," she said. "…We want to do our part in showcasing our hospitality and artistic talents that we have on island."

The artwork was created by artist Yolani Camacho and shows a blend of the different Mini Games sports that will be featured.

"When creating this piece around the Pacific Games, I was searching for the ways in which we are all united other than the sports themselves. The first thing that came to mind was that we are all connected by the sea and so I used that as a focal point of the mural. After finding that focal point, it was a matter of incorporating the sports, other elements related to our island, and of finding the right mix of colors for each element to pop," said Camacho.

The mural took nearly two and a half weeks to complete and is the largest project that Camacho has completed so far. "It has been an amazing experience painting this piece and I truly hope everyone enjoys it," said Camacho.

Mable Ayuyu Glenn, executive assistant for McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, thanked Camacho, saying it turned out beautifully "and we are excited to share this with our entire community as we come together in celebration and support of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games."

Prior to the mural's unveiling, Glenn told Peter and Babauta that they wanted to make sure that McDonald's does its "part in welcoming the athletes and being part of the social conversation around the Mini Games, so we came up with this idea to have a unique, hand painted wall mural dedicated to what brings us all together this time, which is the NMPMG."

McDonald's is inviting you to stop by today to take a selfie or group photo with the mural. Snap a photo and hashtag #MCDxNMPMG.

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MILESTONES

Gedin Auria Cabrera earns degree from Hollins

ROANOKE, VA—Gedin Auria Cabrera of Saipan graduated with summa cum laude honors during Hollins University's 180th commencement ceremony on May 22, 2022, during which Cabrera received her bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate liberal arts education for women and selected graduate programs for women and men. ***(PR)***

Hofschneider graduate from Oregon State U

CORVALLIS, Ore—Marquina Hofschneider of Tinian earned her master's degree in Counseling during Oregon State University's graduation ceremonies last Saturday, June 11, at Reser Stadium on the Corvallis campus, and Sunday, June 12, at the OSU-Cascades campus in Bend.

A total of 7,318 graduates received 7,574 degrees. (There were 250 students receiving two degrees and three who received three degrees.)

The number of graduates is the second most in university history, behind only last year. They will add to the ranks of OSU alumni, who have earned 280,013 degrees over the university's history. ***(PR)***

Protect yourself vs COVID-19 during Pacific Mini Games

From June 17 to 25, 2022, the CNMI will host the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, bringing in more than 1,800 visitors from around the Pacific. While the CNMI is at COVID-19 Community Level Low, the influx of visitors presents an opportunity for an increase in transmission.

"While we have a high vaccination rate here in the CNMI and a supply of COVID-19 therapeutics, we should act with precaution as we are seeing a slight increase in COVID-19 community cases," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña. "Let's enjoy the Games as safely and responsibly as possible."

Efforts to mitigate COVID-19 transmission conducted before, during, and after the period of the NMPMG include daily self-swab antigen COVID-19 testing by participants, establishing handwashing stations at all venue areas, environmental health inspections and implementation of mitigation efforts for identified deficits, and promotion of good handwashing and other healthy behaviors.

Attending a gathering or an event increases your chances of being in close contact with people outside your household and being exposed to COVID-19. Individuals who are considered immunocompromised or at high risk of severe illnesses should avoid crowded places where they cannot stay 6 feet away from others.

Consider using a self-test before joining gatherings with others who do not live in your household. If you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19:

■ Get tested five days after your last close contact

■ Monitor your symptoms

■ Tell your close contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 so they can quarantine, get tested, and wear a well-fitting mask Stay home and do not attend gatherings if you test positive, even if you do not have symptoms. Stay home and do not attend gatherings if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

If you want to spend time with people who do not live with you, outdoors is the safer choice. You are less likely to be exposed to COVID-19 during outdoor activities, even without the use of masks. Good ventilation can help prevent you from getting and spreading COVID-19.

Residents of the CNMI who test positive for COVID-19 on a self-administered test may be eligible for treatment by reporting their positive test result online at www.staysafec-

See PROTECT on Next Page

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2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT

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2013 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GLS — SOLD

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2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL

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2018 HONDA CIVIC LX

SALE PRICE $21,995 | 54,000 MILES | STK:18P426 | KBB: $22,157

2020 MAZDA MAZDA6 TOURING

SALE PRICE $27,995 | 11,995 MILES | STK:20P423 | KBB: $30,330

2016 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK

SALE PRICE $14,995 | 69,980MILES | STK: 16P436 | KBB: $15,515

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE

SALE PRICE $19,995 | 18,200 MILES | STK: 21H079A | KBB: $20,397

2018 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING

SALE PRICE $22,995 | 63,255 MILES | STK:18P398 | KBB: $23,263

2018 FORD F-150 XLT

SALE PRICE $29,995 | 40,904 MILES | STK:18R289 | KBB: $30,387

2018 KIA FORTE HATCHABCK

SALE PRICE $16,995 | 10,601 MILES | STK: 18HS950 | KBB: $17,059

2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL

SALE PRICE $19,995 | 45,500 MILES | STK: 22M051A | KBB: $22,605

2015 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT

SALE PRICE $25,995 | 69,955 MILES | STK:5P279 | KBB: $39,134

2018 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD

SALE PRICE $33,995 | 15,260 MILES | STK: 18P344 | KBB: $34,836

2018 MAZDA MAZDA6 GT

SALE PRICE $16,995 | 56,727 MILES | STK: 16P390A | KBB: $17,845

2018 HYUNDAI KONA

SALE PRICE $19,995 | 24,415 MILES | STK: 21D129A | KBB: $19,455

2018 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE

SALE PRICE $26,995 | 33,750 MILES | STK:22M050A | KBB: $27,271

2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SPORT 4WD

SALE PRICE $49,995 | 28,265 MILES | STK:17P347

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 HATCHBACK

SALE PRICE $17,995 | 12,743MILES | STK:18HS994 | KBB: $18,260

2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE

SALE PRICE $20,995 | 43,555 MILES | STK:22H161A | KBB: $22,710

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Air Tahiti's B787 is largest passenger plane to land on Saipan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan saw the largest passenger plane to land at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning, with the arrival of a chartered Air Tahiti's B787 that brought in over 200 athletes for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Air Tahiti's B787 landed at the airport at around 5:30am yesterday morning carrying 290 athletes for the Mini Games, which will officially start on June 17.

According to sources, the passenger plane is the largest, by far, to touch down on CNMI soil. It can carry up to approximately 294 passengers. In comparison to one of United Airlines' largest aircrafts, the B737, which can carry up to 166 passengers, the B787 Dreamliner can carry nearly twice its capacity.

Air Tahiti's Dreamliner is set to depart the CNMI early this morning after a day layover on Saipan.

The largest airplane to land on Saipan, though, was a cargo plane, the Antonov AN 225 called *Mriya,* that brought relief supplies in 2018 afterr Super Typhoon Yutu. That plane was later destroyed after Russia attached Kyiv in Ukraine.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, the CNMI will welcome over 1,000 athletes from the 20 participating countries who will compete in nine sporting events—athletics (track and field events), badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, tennis, triathlon, va'a (outrigger canoe), and weightlifting.

As of yesterday, the CNMI has welcomed athletes from Palau, Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, and Tahiti. The CNMI is still expecting athletes from places like New Caledonia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Guam, and more.

Saipan's beloved Oleai Sports Complex has seen major renovations in preparation of the Mini Games with a new batting cage and pitching machine, track and field facilities, a baseball field, an air-conditioned gym, and more.

Saipan residents are encouraged to personally watch the Games but for those who can't, there is a dedicated PMG 2022 channel that will be broadcasting all PMG 2022 competition highlights throughout the week.

In addition to having a channel, the KKMP radio station developed a KPMG radio station where they will cover the PMG 2022 live from the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center will serve as the central media center where local media outlets and off island media outlets will be able to receive the results in real-time throughout the Games.

RATES

From Page 1

"We don't raise the rate because we want to or don't want to. We raise the rate because we're mandated to. We need to raise the rate based on this methodology provided to us years ago by the [Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission]…and that has been something that we're required to follow," said Camacho.

It was that CPUC mandate that required CUC to adjust its Fuel Adjustment Charge from $0.34564 per kilowatt-hour to $0.36225 per kWh. CUC warned its users that they will be seeing a slight increase in their power bills this June, reflecting the price increase of fuel in the international markets.

One Facebook user claims that their bill has increased from $350 a month to $766 to $980, and one user stated that their monthly bill used to amount to $70 but is now $1,076.

As CUC explains in its FAC press releases, it says that the CPUC mandates requires CUC to adjust (up or down) the FAC when the Mean of Platts Singapore, or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

The CUC base rate is at 14 cents. The FAC is obviously fluctuating on a month-to-month basis, Camacho said. "Currently, the FAC is at 36 cents, so the methodology that we use on a month-to-month basis to make that adjustment was provided to us by the CPUC."

He acknowledged that it is "extremely challenging right now" but "we need to raise the rate based on this methodology…and that has been something that we're required to follow."

"The CPUC requires us on a month-to-month basis to make an adjustment. …Because of the current international affairs, the war and other affairs, this has affected the supply of oil throughout the world," added Camacho.

CUC's fuel supplier, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., notified CUC last month that there has been an increase in the average international fuel oil prices that will affect the fuel adjustment charge.

Camacho reiterated: "Again, we don't control rates other than the CUC base rate, but there's been no adjustment to that since 2014. Even in 2014 we would still have to go to the CPUC to do that. That's not something CUC has the right to lower on its own.

"It's very important to understand that we must go through our regulatory commission. …Even to lower rates, we must go to them. But everybody's goal, even the [CPEC's] goal, is to ensure that we have the lowest possible rate but still provide and ensure that the utility has the ability to sustain itself.

"So again, it's a methodology that ensures that expenses are paid and the operation is sustainable," added Camacho.

OAG

From Page 1

opposition to Torres' request for the court to select jurors from the entire CNMI voter registration list. This means voters not just on Saipan but also on Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

Tolentino gave Glass until June 20, to file his opposition.

According to the motion filed by Viola Alepuyo on behalf of Torres, the CNMI is a small, close-knit community where it is easy for jurors to be swayed by extrajudicial information and personal considerations.

"This is especially so for Gov. Torres. Gov. Torres was elected by a majority of voters from across the CNMI in 2014 and 2018. As governor of the CNMI, Gov. Torres deals with all the islands. The policies he makes also apply to every island. Furthermore, some of the trips referenced in this case deal with trips to the other islands. Because Gov. Torres' work deals directly with all of the islands, it is difficult for the members of the small knit communities not to have an opinion of the governor," the lawyer stated.

In addition, Torres' counsel said that recent impeachment proceedings, lawsuits, and now criminal charges make it impossible for all CNMI voters to remain unbiased.

"To exacerbate this issue, Torres' recent impeachment and resulting lawsuits, the criminal charges filed against him, and all of the resulting publicity have made it nearly impossible for all the CNMI voters to come up with an unbiased opinion of him. This may make it difficult to find a sufficient number of unbiased jurors," she said.

The most practical method of ensuring a sufficiently large jury pool is to draw jurors from all the islands and not just Saipan, she said.

"Although a defendant does not have the right to be tried by a particular jury, that defendant is still entitled to a fair and impartial jury. The need for judicial economy weighs in favor of having a larger jury pool," she said.

Back in April 8, 2022, the Office of the Attorney General filed criminal charges against Torres alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for premium class travel for himself and/or first lady Diann T. Torres. The governor was also accused of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a legislative subpoena.

The jury trial was initially supposed to begin on July 5 but the date has since been converted into a trial scheduling conference.

PROTECT

From Page 3

nmi.com/self- reporting within five days of the test result date. Residents requesting COVID-19 treatment should fill out the medical questionnaire in the form to get assessed as soon as possible. After reporting online, a CHCC representative will be in contact for next steps should a person be eligible for treatment.

COVID-19 very contagious and has since spread globally, creating a pandemic. COVID-19 most often causes respiratory symptoms that can feel much like a cold, a flu, or pneumonia, and may attack more than your lungs and respiratory system.

Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, but some people become severely ill. Older adults and people who have certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Consider getting vaccinated if you are not yet vaccinated against COVID-19 or getting a booster shot. Unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Vaccines are the best protection against the highly transmissible virus and are readily available at the CHCC Immunization Clinic, Monday to Saturday, 8am-4pm; but on Wednesdays, 9am-4pm. Call (670) 236-8745 for more information.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms like coughing, fever, shortness of breath, or new loss of taste or smell, get checked by a health care provider right away, or call the CHCC Tele-Triage line (670) 233-2067 if you do not have a provider.

If you are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms but are looking to get tested for COVID-19, avail of the free Community-Based Testing by registering at https://covid-testing.chcc.health.

While you wait to get tested or get your test results, live COVID-19 safe: wear a mask, wash your hands, watch your distance, stay at home as much as possible, limit your contact with others, clean or disinfect surfaces frequently, monitor your symptoms, and cover coughs/sneezes.

Follow the 3 W's

Wear a mask when around other people, if you prefer to. People can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Watch your distance. Stay 6 feet away from others. Inside your home, avoid close contact with people who are sick, and if possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members. Outside your home, stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm's length) from other people, especially if you are at higher risk of getting sick.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

EDA

From Page 1

Rescue Plan Act.

This grant will support the renovation and expansion of the 500 Sails boatyard that will house the Maritime Training Center—a vocational and professional training institute. The EDA investment is expected to create 76 jobs and retain four jobs, according to grantee estimates.

"President Biden's American Rescue Plan offers direct relief to American communities as they work to build a better America for the future," said Commerce Secretary Gina M. Raimondo. "This EDA investment will provide the critical infrastructure needed to expand training opportunities that lead to good-paying jobs in Northern Mariana Islands' growing maritime sector."

"The Economic Development Administration is dedicated to working with communities to support their locally-driven strategies to recover and rebuild from the pandemic," said assistant secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Alejandra Y. Castillo. "This project will provide the infrastructure necessary to increase modern instructional programming in the maritime industry."

"With the unprecedented pandemic, the Biden-Harris Administration and Congress responded with unprecedented resources for the Northern Mariana Islands' recovery through the American Rescue Plan," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). "The U.S. Economic Development Administration's approval of $1.6 million in American Rescue Plan funds for 500 Sails' Maritime Training Center [will help jobseekers enter new careers, the growth of local businesses in the industry, and the preservation of the indigenous seafaring traditions of the Marianas."

This project is funded under EDA's American Rescue Plan Indigenous Communities program, which allocates $100 million in American Rescue Plan funding specifically to support the needs of Tribal governments and Indigenous communities. The program supports these partners to develop and execute economic development projects they need to recover from the pandemic and build economies for the future. Indigenous communities are also eligible and encouraged to apply under all of EDA's other programs. ***(PR)***

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JKPL names winners of its sand sculpture competition

As part of CNMI Ocean's Month and World Ocean's Day celebration last June 8, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library partnered with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resource Management to host a sand sculpture contest for the library's Children's Summer Reading Program session 1B participants (9 to 12 years old).

Out of more than 50-plus participants and six groups, three groups won. The panel of judges included 2021 Miss Earth NMI Crystal Fiona Rio, library director Erlinda C. Naputi, Coral Reef Initiative communications coordinator/DCRM-BECQ Marlyn C. Naputi, and BECQ director Ray S. Masga.

Group were informed to work together and build a sea creature. Judges voted on teamwork, creativity and uniqueness, sea creature, and group share response.

The Winning groups are as follows:

FIRST PLACE

Entry: Bikini Bottom

Participants: Stephan Li, Elita Li, Keoni Ruszala, Lelani Ruszala, Keara Crisostomo, David Bercilla, Team Leaders: Miranda Marian and Valerie Naputi

Prizes: $15.00 gift certificate from 670 Rocksteady, Movie pass from Friends of the JKPL, and a toy from Lollipops for each child. DOCOMO Pacific Beach chair for the group leader.

SECOND PLACE

Entry: Library Turtle

Participants: Noah Balisalisa, Evan Balisalisa, Ava Dela Cruz, Jesse Dela Cruz, Grayden Ngiralmau, Team Leaders: Yuteng Chen and Leora Terlaje

Prize: Movie pass from the Friends of the JKPL for each winner.

THIRD PLACE

Entry: Jelly Fish with the Mask

Participants: Tristan Que, Chloe Shin, Dana Hwang, Katherine Hwang, Emma Long, Nia Que, Eldrian Calibo, Team Leaders: Sharee Fernando, Pauline Viray, Aaron Cayading, and Chelsea Gozun

Prizes: Movie pass from the Friends of the JKPL for each winner. ***(PR)***

The first place winning group.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The second-place winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The third-place winners.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PSS hosts first virtual Ed Tech conference

The CNMI Public School System, through its Office of Instructional Technology and Distance Education, hosted a first-ever, two-day virtual 21st Century educational technology professional development conference.

The conference featured acclaimed educator, author, and speaker Matt Miller; Dr. Riya Nathrani, 2022 Teacher of the Year; and Jed Sta. Theresa, Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School student leader and student representative to the CNMI State Board of Education.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada opened the event, extending his support and gratitude for the role that technology plays in improving the classroom experience of students. "We need to meet our learners, our Zennials and Gen X's, where they are and use their platform, which is largely technology, to help them learn and grow."

BOE member Herman Atalig extended support as well. "I am excited and thrilled for the opportunity to see technology being used to support educators from public and private schools to truly prepare our students for the future."

A highlight of the event were keynote speakers Nathrani and Sta. Theresa.

Nathrani took viewers on a journey to the past and the present and provided a pedagogical framework for using technology to enhance and support the work of educators. Sta. Theresa spoke about the role technology played in enhancing his school experience and impressed educators by showing how he has leveraged technology to support his learning about engineering and design through 3D printing. He also showcased new technology innovations via virtual reality as he transformed into an avatar.

CNMI educators from both public and private schools covered a wide array of topics and tools that they can implement in their classrooms to improve their instruction and provide a more meaningful learning experience for students. A total of 270 educators participated in the conference over the two days and many stayed engaged throughout the sessions. Each day consisted of four sessions, with eight sessions in all.

Miller showed teachers how they can successfully integrate technology, while also having them share how they use technology in different forms of instruction. Teachers learned new techniques, strategies, and practical ideas they can use to enhance the wealth of educational technology skills they already possess.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology and Distance Education at PSS, gave a futurist perspective on teaching and learning. "It's been 30-plus years since the introduction of the World Wide Web, and now the age of information technology is coming to an end, and the Era of Technology Experience & Digital Citizenship begins as Generation Alpha is born. We move into a world of social media coupling with augmented reality, machine learning, and artificial intelligence that is advancing faster than we can keep pace. What will our classrooms look like and how do we ensure that the tenets and values of our identity as Pacific Islanders remain? As the technology gives our students access to the world, it also gives the world access to our home islands and leveraging technology in this reciprocal way is equally as important." ***(PR)***

PSS Mental Health team leads 'Luta Color Run' on Rota

The Public School System's Mental Health Team, with the support of partnering community agencies, spearheaded the "Luta Color Run" on Rota last June 11 in celebration of Pride Month.

A total of 95 participants joined the fun run. The first 75 early participants were greeted with a warm welcome and an incentive package.

Participants ran from the Tun Kindu Baseball Field that led around the Sinapalo Youth Center and Rota Judicial Center, ultimately concluding back at the baseball field with color splash stations for every 200 feet of the route.

Prior to the start of the event, the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services led the event with a light stretch and exercise for the participants, followed by welcoming remarks from Marvin Tamangided, LEA community project manager for Rota.

Vannah Hocog, PSS Mental Health behavioral health specialist, worked with Tamangided in the days leading up to the event to coordinate support and efforts from multiple community partners.

Partnering community agencies, FILCOR, DCCA DYS, Rota Municipal Council, CHCC CGC, G&C Clan, AmeriCorps and Mayor's Office helped ensure the success of the event. Partnering agencies set up color and incentive stations along the route. DPS and DFEMS also provided assistance in making sure all participants were kept safe.

A participant of the event said, "The event was a huge success with a great turnout. I'm excited for more activities like this that really brings out the community for a great cause. I'm really happy many people came out to support LGBTQ awareness."

PSS Mental Health, in conjunction with Project TASA and Project HALIGI AWARE, hosted the event to celebrate the spirit of Pride Month, along with the initiative to raise awareness of the importance of mental wellness and physical health, since mental health plays an immense role in the process of self-discovery of one's sexual identity.

Pride Month is a monthlong observation and celebration of the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, +) community. It celebrates the historic strides of the LGBTQ+ social movement and the continuous endeavor to educate the community of the importance of inclusivity and equality. The spectrum of the LGBTQ+ community is not limited to the commonly known gender identities named in the acronym. It includes a spectrum of gender identities such as: intersex, nonbinary, asexual, pansexual, and/or those who identify in other ways or are questioning their sexual or gender identity or expression. The celebration also welcomes all supporters of the community who support the movement as allies. ***(PR)***

AAPI Month: Celis shares her Saipan heritage and culture

By KAYLA CHRISTENSON
97TH AIR MOBILITY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Saipan, an island in the chain of the Northern Mariana Islands, spans 12 miles long and 5.6 miles wide. It consists of more than 45,000 people, the majority of which are Asian and Pacific Islanders. Before coming to the "Mighty 97th" Staff Sgt. Margaret Celis was one of them.

Celis, a 97th Medical Group pharmacy technician, was born on Saipan as a member of the indigenous Chamorro people and resided on the island for a total of 12 years.

"My dad was in the Army and we traveled a bit all over after I turned 9 and then came back to Saipan where I graduated high school, " said Celis. "I still have family that lives there but a lot of them have moved due to limited opportunities on the island."

Celis has been in the Air Force for more than four years and plans on serving until retirement, possibly as an officer.

"Seeing my dad wear the uniform, living that lifestyle of moving a lot and being around service members made the transition a lot easier," she said. "I also knew that joining before I started a family would better the timing of it all so I wouldn't be separated from them as long as my dad was."

Celis loves to cook and, even though she has moved away from Saipan, she carries on the tradition of preparing some of the native dishes.

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Margaret Celis, 97th Medical Group pharmacy technician, reaches for a medication at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma.
SENIOR AIRMAN KAYLA CHRISTENSON

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Margaret Celis, 97th Medical Group pharmacy technician, poses for a photo at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, May 25, 2022.
SENIOR AIRMAN KAYLA CHRISTENSON

"I call my dad to guide me through making a few dishes like banana *buñelos* and chicken *kelaguin* when I am missing home," she said.

Every May, Asian American and Pacific Islander Month is a time to recognize the contributions and influence AAPI Americans have made to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

"Being a part of a small group like the Chamorros, it is important for us to be proud of our culture and heritage," she said. "Having AAPI month to reflect and celebrate our traditions and meet other AAPI Americans is always eye opening and a new learning experience."

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Margaret Celis, 97th Medical Group pharmacy technician, wraps herself in the flag of the Northern Mariana Islands at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, May 25, 2022. The flag was adopted in 1985 and consists of three symbols: a star representing the United States, a latte stone representing the Chamorros, and a mwar-mwar, a decorative wreath representing the Carolinians. The blue background represents the Pacific Ocean and the Mariana Trench.
SENIOR AIRMAN KAYLA CHRISTENSON

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-018

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE - SAIPAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/OUT-PATIENT PHARMACY-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"Pharmacy Department Drive-thru Renovation & Improvements"
(Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring & Construction)
For CHCC Hospital/Pharmacy Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF INTENT TO LEASE PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 064 D 04 containing an area of approximately 7,138 square meters, more or less, situated in Navy Hill, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Saipan Palau Evangelical Church. The lists of officers for Saipan Palau Evangelical Church, are David Leskosek, as President, and Semesi Betevua as Vice President.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. David Leskosek.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operation of a Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church program and activities, Sunday School, and other church related activities.

The term of the Public Land Lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Navy Hill, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, June 30, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Gi sigun Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannåna'i guini nutisia put i intensiona para u atkila finitmi na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi hålum henerål pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiño, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni más mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyipettanesin na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 064 D 04 ni konsisisti kåsi 7,138 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Navy Hill, iya Saipan. I kopianpåttinmåpa i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I "prospective lessee" i "Saipan Palau Evangelical Church." I listanufisiåt siha para i "Saipan Palau Evangelical Church," sa si David Leskosek, komu Presidenti, yan si Semesi Betevua komu Sigundu Presidenti.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu gi as Siñot David Leskosek.

iv. I "lessee" debi na u usa i lugåt solamienti para i hinagai prugråma yan aktibidåt nu "Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church" siha, Iskuelan Damenggu, yan otru manasosiåt na aktibidåt ekglesia siha.

I tema i kontråtan Atkilon Tanu' Pupbliku sa' bentisingku (25) åñus.

I maproponi na atkilon kada såkkan gi durântin i tema magiha gi putsientu i "appraised fair market value" gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kontrå tanatkilon siña machuli' gi Ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Primet (1st) bibienda gi De'Ana Commercial Building, giya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) bibienda gi PM Building, giya Tinian. Managuaha siempri kopia online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkilamasuhetu na tanu' pupbliku giya Navy Hill, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritârian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u akseptatinigi' upiño, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat alternative proposals ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Hunio 30, 2022 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkáåw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Lot 064 D 04 e bwe bwáá bwe 7,138 reel square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Navy Hill, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwalwóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Pommwol school atkkilóón nge Saipan Palau Evangelical Church. List-al officers ngáli Saipan Palau Evangelical Church, nge David Leskosek, bwe President, me Semesi Betevua bwe Vice President.

iii. Pommwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. David Leskosek.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngá limwó ghutughutúl Saipan-Palau Evangelical Church me progróómal me mwóghutughut, "Sunday School", me ákkáåw mwóghutughut ikka e bwal schuu long.

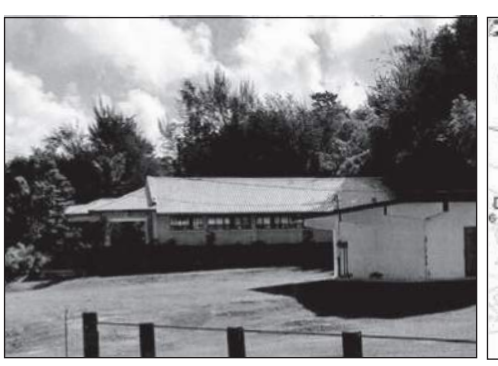
Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúwfengál me llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me reelBwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel PM Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiweli ngáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me Navy Hill, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommw iye re siiweli sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil Unnyo 30, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Tentative bipartisan agreement should be the start of gun reform, not the end

A tentative bipartisan agreement in the Senate on gun violence would strengthen federal background-check requirements for purchasers under 21, incentivize states to create red flag laws, prevent domestic abusers from obtaining firearms and create other reforms. If approved, these smallest of baby steps would be the most significant federal gun legislation in almost three decades—a depressing statement about the gun culture's iron grip on Congress. But it's a valid endeavor, as long as it goes down as the start, not the end, of gun safety reform in America.

The pattern of dysfunction has cycled for a generation now: A mass shooting spawns demands from Americans that Congress act. Democrats offer reasonable remedies like banning assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. Republicans reject any action at all, terrified of enraging gun extremists who don't comprise a majority of their party (or even a majority of gun owners), but can sway GOP primaries through their organization and fervency. So nothing happens and the issue sinks from public debate. Then the next mass shooting happens, and the whole process repeats itself.

That tragic pattern may yet repeat itself again in the wake of the recent back-to-back mass shootings in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde, Texas. Democrats have an effective one-vote Senate majority, which isn't enough to overcome an inevitable Republican filibuster of any new gun restrictions.

This time, though, there is some encouraging math in the 20-member group of senators who announced their gun-reform framework Sunday. Ten are Republicans (including longtime top gun lobby ally Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri), enough to overcome a filibuster. Which means this legislation might actually happen.

The timidity of the agreement is undeniable. Its most significant component—requiring that federal background checks on gun buyers under 21 include a search of juvenile and mental health records—will be almost meaningless in states like Missouri, where state law allows buyers to circumvent the background check system altogether by buying from a private dealer instead of a federally licensed one. A true federal universal background check law would close that loophole, and a ban on any firearms purchases by teenagers would make sense.

(Missouri's deranged new law declaring federal gun restrictions unenforceable here could theoretically complicate any such a proposal. Luckily, that brazenly unconstitutional law seems unlikely to survive its pending legal challenge.)

If this agreement ultimately becomes law, some Republicans will undoubtedly invoke it in the future to counter valid criticism that they haven't done enough to confront gun violence. They shouldn't get that pass. This agreement doesn't do enough, by a lot, but it's worth pursuing for two reasons: One, at this point, anything is better than nothing. And, two, it will be an acknowledgment in principle, by at least some Republicans, that thoughts and prayers aren't enough to confront America's gun violence crisis. That's a start.

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Washington already fought a cold war with Beijing. It was a disaster

By GRANT GOLUB
Chicago Tribune

Grant Golub is a contributing fellow at Defense Priorities and an Ernest May Fellow with the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February, a debate within the U.S. foreign policy community has reignited over how far Washington would go to defend Taiwan if China launched a similar assault on the island. These questions acquired a new level of urgency last month when President Joe Biden seemed to suggest he would use military force to protect Taiwan if Beijing ever decided to attack it.

Although Biden administration officials quickly clarified the United States had not abandoned its historic policy of "strategic ambiguity" toward Taiwan's defense, the president's comments came only days before Secretary of State Antony Blinken gave a speech outlining Washington's approach to China: Beijing is the greatest challenger to the American-led international order, and its global behavior must be constrained through shaping the "strategic environment" around it.

Despite U.S. officials insisting they don't want a "new Cold War," the Biden team is making a mistake in applying the Cold War-era U.S. strategy of containment as a means of managing its increasingly hostile relationship with China. Indeed, Washington already fought a cold war once with Beijing while engaging in superpower competition with Moscow—it was a catastrophe not only for American foreign policy but also for all of East Asia.

During the first 25 or so years of the Cold War, Asia represented a blood-soaked albatross for U.S. policymakers.

Months after his domestic critics accused him of "losing China" to leader Mao Zedong and his Chinese Communist Party (CCP), President Harry Truman authorized a military intervention on the Korean Peninsula in 1950 to halt North Korea's invasion of its southern neighbor. "If we were to let Asia go," he warned after Pyongyang's forces attacked, "the Near East would collapse and no telling what would happen in Europe."

This early formulation of the "domino theory," which Truman cited to justify U.S. involvement, helped transform the Cold War from a political and economic competition into a militarized confrontation that led to a series of fiascoes in Asia.

Washington's early victories in reversing North Korea's invasion triggered Chinese intervention in the Korean conflict, leading to a costly stalemate. By the time a cease-fire was reached in July 1953, there were an estimated 5 million casualties, including 2 million to 3 million civilians. South Korea had been saved, but Mao's China exacted a terrible cost.

At two points during the 1950s, U.S. officials found themselves on the nuclear brink when Mao attacked Taiwanese-held islands off the coast of mainland China. Looking to avoid using American ground forces, the Eisenhower administration threatened atomic retaliation to defend Taiwan. Beijing ultimately relented both times, but the crises convinced Chinese policymakers to build their own nuclear deterrent, raising the stakes in a volatile region.

The U.S. soon found itself sucked into another ferocious quagmire in Indochina. France's inability to quell a communist insurgency there pushed Washington to deeply engage, first by aiding Paris' military campaigns and then by deploying American troops in what became known as the Vietnam War. Covertly assisted by Beijing, North Vietnam consistently frustrated U.S. efforts to defeat it, leading to an approximate 3 million deaths. By the war's end, American leaders had achieved none of their objectives, and the CCP scored a significant victory in pushing U.S. forces out of Vietnam.

Across Southeast Asia, Chinese-U.S. competition caused significant destruction and violence. In Indonesia, Washington abetted a wave of mass killings of suspected communist sympathizers that led to roughly 500,000 deaths and decades of authoritarian rule. In neighboring Malaysia, U.S. officials supported counterinsurgency campaigns against Beijing-sponsored communist revolutionaries that resulted in two decades of civil war. Fears of CCP influence spreading produced a succession of American misadventures in the Pacific that hardly advanced U.S. goals.

As U.S.-China relations further decline to lows not seen in decades, America's previous cold war with China should give policymakers pause. Washington's past attempt to contain Beijing in East Asia accomplished little and precipitated wanton regional devastation and ruin. This all occurred while China was a low-income nation with hundreds of millions living in poverty.

After decades of setbacks, an earlier generation of U.S. cold warriors finally learned a militarized approach to China would only continue to end in failure. With China currently rising as a peer competitor and expanding its nuclear arsenal, the risks of miscalculation are even more fraught than before.

On its current trajectory, Chinese-U.S. great power competition in the Pacific will leave the region less secure and more prone to instability and conflict. Biden's increasingly hawkish advisers must realize the Cold War is not a recipe for success but a formula for disaster.

The 21st century requires a fresh framework for tackling an unstable world—comprehensive diplomacy and cooperation are a good place to start.

The Republicans' three-pronged strategy to win back the House

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg Opinion

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is the editor of* National Review *and a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.*

President Joe Biden's job approval is lower than Barack Obama's or Donald Trump's at this point in their presidencies. Each of those predecessors saw his party lose control of the House of Representatives in his second year in office.

Midterm elections typically go badly for the party in power. Its opponents are aggrieved, its supporters disappointed at worst or complacent at best. But the Democrats are facing an additional challenge this year: an issue environment that accentuates their weaknesses.

Inflation is unquestionably the top issue for American voters right now. A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll found that 50% of voters trust Republicans more than Democrats on handling it, while only 31% had more faith in the Democrats. It's a big advantage, and it's not a fluke.

Inflation has been dormant for a long time in the U.S.: ABC News had not conducted a poll on which party was most trusted on dealing with the problem since the George H. W. Bush administration. It turns out that the Republicans had roughly the same advantage 30 years ago, too.

It may be, then, that Democrats aren't just suffering because inflation has been high on their watch or even because Biden (like the Federal Reserve and many economists) clearly underestimated how long it would stay high. The public could just be primed to trust Republicans on the issue, the way it's primed to trust Democrats on, say, Medicare.

Democrats are trying to build their own reputation as inflation-fighters—presumably that is a key reason Biden wrote an op-ed about the subject for the Wall Street Journal—but also want to get voters to put a higher priority on other issues that are more favorable to their party. Abortion and gun violence top that list.

The same ABC/Post poll found the Democrats with a 10-point advantage on abortion, and many polls suggest they are in sync with public opinion in seeking stricter regulation of guns. On both issues, however, intensity has often been on the side of conservatives.

Democrats are also eager to make a campaign issue out of former President Donald Trump, and his disgraceful effort to stay in power after losing the 2020 election. But this tactic failed last year in Virginia, where Trump is less popular than he is nationally. It seems unlikely that it is going to move voters more this fall.

Republicans, of course, can also try to elevate other issues. They have been blaming progressive prosecutors for rising rates of violent crime and for public disorder, and think San Francisco's recent recall of its district attorney illustrates the potency of this issue. (The ABC/Post poll found that Republicans have a 12-point advantage on crime.) They have also laid the groundwork to attack Biden's immigration policies if conditions at the U.S.-Mexico border get visibly worse.

The issues Republicans want to highlight—inflation, crime, and illegal immigration—all fit into a larger conservative story about government. Each of them involves a failure by the government at a core task: maintaining the value of the currency, suppressing violence, regulating the border.

They thus reinforce public suspicions about the competence of government and, therefore, about ambitious proposals for government-directed social change. They threaten the public's sense of stability, order and control—the very things conservative politicians specialize in offering, if they can avoid coming across as radicals themselves.

Democrats spent several months trying to enact a "Build Back Better" agenda with high-flown rhetoric about "a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enact transformational policies that lift up people's lives." With voters upset about prices at the gas pump, that kind of talk now seems laughable. So, increasingly, does the prospect that Democrats will keep their majority in the US House.

Bring back the child tax credit

By JULIA RAIFMAN and ALLISON BOVELL-AMMON
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and increased inflation, 15% of households with children reported food insufficiency in March and April of this year. Food insufficiency — defined as when individuals sometimes or often do not have enough food to eat in the past week — poses short- and long-term moral and economic threats to the United States.

Even brief disruptions in access to food can have lasting consequences. Not having enough to eat can disrupt children's cognitive and emotional development and education. Research has pointed to the potentially lifelong ramifications of not having enough to eat in childhood, including an increased likelihood of poor health outcomes and avoidable medical expenditures across their lifespan.

Fortunately, Congress can help. Several studies indicate that advance Child Tax Credit (CTC) payments, expanded under the American Rescue Plan Act, reduced poverty and food insufficiency in households with children. From July to December of last year, the advance CTC payments were distributed as monthly cash payments of up to $300 per child to families with children under age 17. Caregivers earning less than $200,000 as a single adult or less than $400,000 as a married couple were eligible for the benefit, meaning nearly all households with children qualified.

In our previous research, we found that the expanded CTC was associated with a 26% decrease in food insufficiency in households with children as compared to those without. Our findings added to a growing body of evidence that the payments resulted in a 25% decline in food insufficiency and improved dietary quality for children.

On the flip side, according to our latest study (which is forthcoming), the CTC payments' expiration was tied to an at least 12% increase in food insufficiency among households with children. (That's about three to four times pre-pandemic levels.) And rates of food insufficiency have continued to climb since February.

The data is clear: Monthly CTC payments drastically reduced childhood poverty when they were in place. Now, as Congress turns its attention to the next reconciliation package, we must push to reinstate them, especially as inflation and the pandemic continue to deeply impact work, health and the economy.

Families with low incomes overwhelmingly spent their CTC payments on basic needs for children, including food, rent, utilities, clothing and educational costs. There is also no evidence suggesting a reduction in employment among parents in families receiving CTC payments.

Reinstating the payments may also help address another top concern for policymakers: rising teen opioid addiction and overdose deaths. Childhood stress and poverty are associated with overdoses and could be reduced by expanding CTC.

Some policy makers have considered adding work requirements to receive CTC benefits; such requirements carry an administrative burden for states and families. But, with food insufficiency concentrated in the lowest-income households with children, this would often prevent those who most need benefits from receiving them and result in negative outcomes.

Implementing an expanded CTC without exclusions due to work or immigration status is the best way to reach children in families with the greatest need, to the benefit of all children and society.

Julia Raifman is an assistant professor at the Boston University School of Public Health and leads the COVID-19 US State Policy Database. Allison Bovell-Ammon is the Director of Policy Strategy for Children's HealthWatch at Boston Medical Center. This column was edited by Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service. It originally appeared on the Economic Policy Institute's Working Economics Blog.

Just like a Snickers bar, soon you'll be able to buy AR-15 from a vending machine

By LEONARD GREENE
New York Daily News

Allergy medication. Fireworks. Roquefort cheese and food stamps.

Beer on a Sunday morning, Broadway tickets, solar panels and birth control.

Trump's former campaign manager Bill Stepien drops out of Jan. 6 committee hearing

There it is: A list of things more difficult to get than an AR-15 rifle.

In the days before he stormed a Texas school and killed two teachers and 19 of their students, Salvador Ramos purchased two assault-style rifles.

On Monday, May 16, Ramos turned 18. On Tuesday, May 17, he purchased a rifle from a federally licensed gun store. On Wednesday, May 18, he bought 375 rounds of 5.56-caliber ammunition, and on Friday he went back to buy another rifle.

Who knows what he did on Thursday.

And, on Tuesday, May 24, Ramos shot his grandmother in the face, took her truck and drove to Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, where he opened fire in a classroom with one of his brand new rifles.

He left the other rifle in the truck he had crashed because he barely knew how to drive.

Which brings us back to the list of things more difficult to get than an AR-15 rifle:

A driver's license. Unemployment insurance. A marriage license and an abortion.

That's right, an abortion. Conservatives are quick to wave the right-to-life banner, but they'd have zero inhibitions about selling these weapons of mass destruction out of a vending machine, like a candy bar or a soda.

As for waiting periods, some states require a woman to receive in-person counseling—then wait 24 hours—before an abortion can be performed.

An AR-15? Step right up.

Last week, New York state enacted sweeping gun control laws in the wake of the Texas massacre and a shooting in Buffalo, where a gunman targeted shoppers in a busy grocery store just because they were Black.

Like the Texas shooter, the Buffalo gunman, Payton Gendron, was an 18-year-old who purchased his killing machines legally.

Authorities said Gendron bought the murder weapon—a Bushmaster XM-15—legally from a dealer in Endicott, New York. He used his dad's power drill to modify the weapon to add an illegal high-capacity magazine.

The new legislation in New York includes stronger "red flag" laws that could prevent more people deemed a threat from buying a gun, and raises the age to buy semi-automatic weapons from 18 to 21.

"So no 18-year-old can walk in on their birthday and walk out with an AR-15," Gov. Kathy Hochul said. "Those days are over."

Predictably, gun store owners report that sales of semiautomatic rifles are soaring before the new age limit law takes effect—as if America needs more guns than the 393 million already in civilian hands.

Which brings us to the No. 1 thing that is more difficult to buy than an AR-15:

A handgun. In most places, If you can easily conceal the weapon, you have to wait a bit before you can buy it.

But if you need two hands to hold it, and it can kill faster than you can count, you can purchase it without a problem.

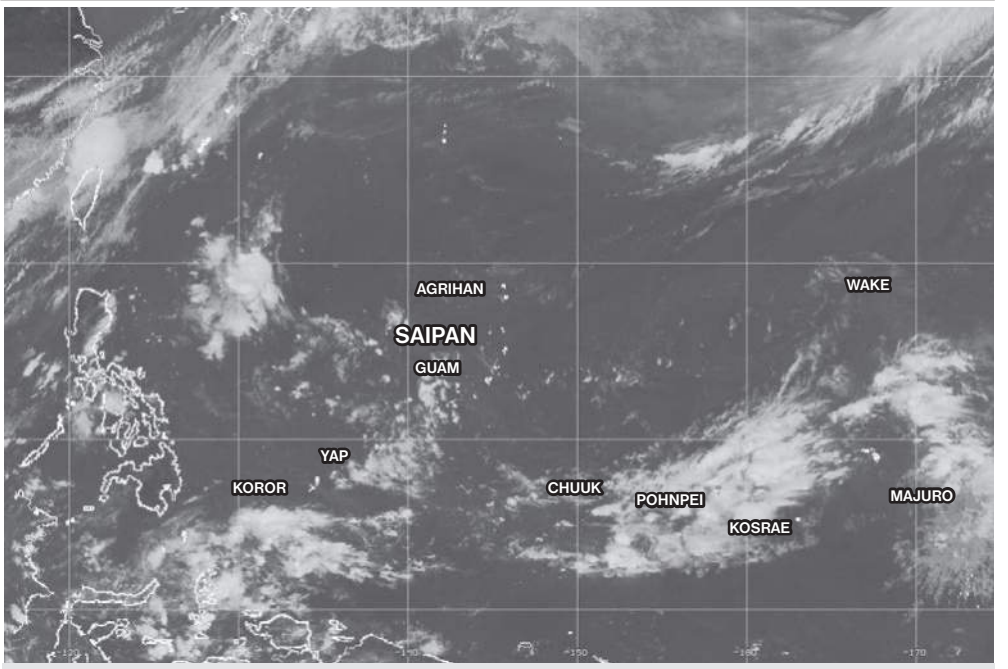
They'll even put a ribbon on it for you. A pretty red one, to match all the blood.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny, with Scattered showers. East wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Partly sunny, with a chance of showers.	Partly sunny, with a chance of showers.
90° 78°	90° 78°	90° 78°	85° 77°	89° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet which are composed of east wind waves and east-northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorm	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 24 °F
Yap	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26°F
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	30 / 26 °F
Majuro	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:46 AM	18:48 PM
Friday	05:47 AM	18:48 PM
Saturday	05:47 AM	18:48 PM
Sunday	05:47 AM	18:49 PM
Monday	09:27 AM	18:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	07:13 PM	20:52 PM
Friday	-	08:21 PM	21:51 PM
Saturday	-	09:27 PM	22:43 PM
Sunday	-	10:28 PM	23:29 PM
Monday	-	11:25 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	17 / 12 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	31 / 19 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	29 / 23 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	29 / 16 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	26 / 17 °F
Manila	PM Thunderstorms	34 / 27 °F
Melbourne	Light Rain	15 / 10 °F
Miami	Partly Cloudy	30 / 27 °F
New York	Mostly Sunny	27 / 19 °F
Osaka	Scattered Thunderstorms	24 / 20 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	31 / 16 °F
Busan	Partly Cloudy	24 / 20 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	32 / 20 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	35 / 23 °F
San Francisco	Sunny/Wind	19 / 12°F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	26 / 16 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	26 / 21 °F
Washington, DC	AM Thunderstorms	32 / 22 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
03:00 AM	Low Tide	1.55
07:38 AM	High Tide	2.22
3:16 PM	Low Tide	-0.56
10:40 PM	High Tide	2.21

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	7
7C3451	3:00PM	6:20PM	3
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

A184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	7
BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

US, Japan coast guards, Navy rescue fisherman off Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam— Members of the U.S. Coast Guard, Japan Coast Guard, and U.S. Navy rescued a mariner aboard a fishing vessel south of Guam last June 7, 2022.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam's Joint Rescue Sub-Center received a report Tuesday of a 55-year old male experiencing severe abdominal pain aboard the fishing vessel Fukuichimaru No. 83 nearly 725-nautical miles south of Guam.

Photos courtesy of the Japan Coast Guard.

The JRSC coordinated with the U.S. Navy's Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and the Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel Mizuho to complete the emergent medical evacuation of the patient.

"The combined work between Mizuho, HSC-25, and the U.S. Coast Guard showcased efficient and timely search and rescue execution between interagency and international partners," said Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Crose, a search and rescue mission coordinator for U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam.

"The excellent communication and coordination during this case also underscores the importance of the newly-signed Sapphire agreement between the U.S. and Japan Coast Guards," said Crose. "Having just completed a joint exercise the day before, this close relationship is already paying dividends in response effectiveness while promoting a safe and secure maritime environment."

The Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel Mizuho was able to quickly reach the fishing vessel Fukuichimaru No. 83 and transport the patient within helicopter range of Guam, where they rendezvoused with HSC-25 to conduct a hoist and transfer of the patient to a higher level of medical care. ***(USCG)***

Judiciary Historical Society presents Law in the Community lecture series

Han

Cuizon-Villazor

The Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society announces that interim dean Rose Cuison-Villazor of Rutgers Law School and associate professor Eun Hee Han of Georgetown Law School will be presenting in the Law in the Community Lecture Series on June 28, June 30, July 5, and July 7. The professors will each give two public lectures about topical legal issues. The professors will take questions from the audience.

The lectures will take place as follows:

■ Tuesday, June 28, at 12pm at the Guma' Hustisia Assembly Hall in Susupe. Cuison-Villazor will present a lecture titled "Critical Race Theory, Pacific Islands, and Cultural Rights." The lecture will outline critical race theory and examine how it applies to laws such as the CNMI's Article 12, which restricts ownership of land to indigenous people.

■ Thursday, June 30, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Auditorium. Han will give a lecture called "Critical Race Stories." The lecture will discuss a groundbreaking article by scholar Mari J. Matsuda, which analyzes discrimination against people because of their accents.

■ Tuesday, July 5, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Auditorium. Cuison-Villazor will present a lecture called "The *Insular Cases* and Citizenship." The *Insular Cases* are U.S. Supreme Court decisions from over 100 years ago that discuss the status of U.S. territories. The lecture will discuss those cases and more recent cases involving American Samoa in which the *Insular Cases* played a major role.

■ Thursday July 7, at 12pm at the Guma' Hustisia Assembly Hall in Susupe. Han will give a lecture titled "Cross-Cultural Competency and Law." The lecture will discuss a new standard of the American Bar Association that requires law schools to educate their students on cross-cultural competency, bias, and racism.

The lectures are free and will be livestreamed on the Judiciary's Facebook page. Members of the CNMI Bar Association can receive one CLE credit per lecture attended. The two professors, who were both raised in the CNMI, will also be teaching introductory law classes as part of the Judiciary Summer Pre-Law Program.

The Law in the Community Lecture Series is made possible in part by a major grant from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL
CUC-RAESP-22-027

A&E Design Services For Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Water System Mitigation Project PH II, PH I.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from FEMA HMGP.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RAESP-22-027, A&E Design Services for Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 27, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 6, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Donghui Lao Lao Bay Corp. intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: PMB 538 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Donghui Lao Lao Bay Corp.
PMB 538 Box 10003 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 285-1863

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Donghui Jewelry Group Corp. intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: PMB 538 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Donghui Jewelry Group Corp.
PMB 538 Box 10003 Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 285-1863

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Donghui Commercial Trade Corp. intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: PMB 538 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

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Business

RECESSION FEARS GROW

Just how high is the risk?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Inflation is at a 40-year high. Stock prices are sinking. The Federal Reserve is making borrowing much costlier. And the economy actually shrank in the first three months of this year.

Is the United States at risk of enduring another recession, just two years after emerging from the last one?

For now, most economists don't foresee a downturn in the near future. Despite the inflation squeeze, consumers—the primary driver of the economy—are still spending at a healthy pace. Businesses are investing in equipment and software, reflecting a positive outlook. And the job market is still booming, with hiring strong, layoffs low and many employers eager for more workers.

"Nothing in the U.S. data is currently suggesting a recession is imminent," Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote Tuesday. "Job growth remains strong and households are still spending.

That said, Farooqi cautioned, "the economy faces headwinds."

Among the signs that recession risks are rising: High inflation has proved far more entrenched and persistent than many economists—and the Fed—had expected: Consumer prices rose 8.6% last month from a year earlier, the biggest annual 12-month jump since 1981. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated global food and energy prices. Extreme lockdowns in China over COVID-19 worsened supply shortages.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell has vowed to do whatever it might take to curb inflation, including raising interest rates so high as to weaken the economy. If that happens, the Fed could potentially trigger a recession, perhaps in the second half of next year, economists say.

On Wednesday, the Fed is set to raise its benchmark interest rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, by as much as three-quarter of a percentage point. That would be the Fed's largest rate hike since 1994, and it could herald the start of a period of especially aggressive credit tightening by the central bank—and with it, a higher risk of recession.

Analysts say the U.S. economy, which has thrived for years on the fuel of ultra-low borrowing costs, might not be able to withstand the impact of much higher rates.

The nation's unemployment rate is at a near-half-century low of 3.6%, and employers are posting a near record number of open jobs. Yet even an economy with a healthy labor market can eventually suffer a recession if borrowing becomes costlier and consumers and businesses put a brake on spending.

HOW WOULD THE FED'S RATE HIKES WEAKEN THE ECONOMY?

Higher loan rates are sure to slow spending in areas that require consumers to borrow, with housing the most visible example. The average rate on 30-year fixed mortgages topped 5% in April for the first time in a decade and has stayed there since. A year ago, the average was below 3%.

Home sales have fallen in response. And so have mortgage applications, a sign that sales will keep slowing. A similar trend could occur in other markets, for cars, appliances and furniture, for example.

HOW IS SPENDING AFFECTED?

Borrowing costs for businesses are rising, as reflected in increased yields on corporate bonds. At some point, those higher rates could weaken business investment. If companies pull back on buying new equipment or expanding capacity, they will also start to slow hiring. Rising caution among companies and consumers about spending freely could further slow hiring or even lead to layoffs. If the economy were to lose jobs and the public were to grow more fearful, consumers would pull back further on spending.

DOES A SINKING STOCK MARKET HURT THE ECONOMY?

Falling stock prices may discourage affluent households, who collectively hold the bulk of America's stock wealth, from spending as much on vacation travel, home renovations or new appliances. Broad stock indexes have tumbled for weeks. Falling share prices also tend to diminish the ability of corporations to expand. Wage growth, adjusted for inflation, would slow and leave Americans with even less purchasing power. Though a weaker economy would eventually reduce inflation, until then high prices could hinder consumer spending. Eventually, the slowdown would feed on itself, with layoffs mounting as economic growth slowed, leading consumers to increasingly cut back out of concern that they, too, might lose their jobs.

WHAT ARE SIGNS OF AN IMPENDING RECESSION?

The clearest signal that a recession might be nearing, economists say, would be a steady rise in job losses and a surge in unemployment. As a rule of thumb, an increase in the unemployment rate of three-tenths of a percentage point, on average over the previous three months, has meant that a recession will eventually follow.

ANY OTHER SIGNALS TO WATCH FOR?

Many economists also monitor changes in the interest payments, or yields, on different bonds for a recession signal known as an "inverted yield curve." This occurs when the yield on the 10-year Treasury falls below the yield on a short-term Treasury, such as the 3-month T-bill. That is unusual, because longer-term bonds typically pay investors a richer yield in exchange for tying up their money for a longer period.

Inverted yield curves generally mean that investors foresee a recession and will compel the Fed to slash rates. Inverted curves often predate recessions. Still, it can take as long as 18 or 24 months for the downturn to arrive after the yield curve inverts. A short-lived inversion occurred Tuesday, when the yield on the two-year Treasury briefly fell below the 10-year yield as it did temporarily in April. Many analysts say, though, that comparing the 3-month yield to the 10-year has a better recession-forecasting track record. Those rates are not inverting now.

Powell has said the Fed's goal was to raise rates to cool borrowing and spending so that companies would reduce their huge number of job openings. In turn, Powell hopes, companies won't have to raise pay as much, thereby easing inflation pressures, but without significant job losses or an outright recession.

"I do expect that this will be very challenging," Powell said. 'It's not going to be easy."

Though economists say it's possible for the Fed to succeed, most now also say they're skeptical that the central bank can tame such high inflation without eventually derailing the economy.

Deutsche Bank economists think the Fed will have to raise its key rate to at least 3.6% by mid-2023, enough to cause a recession by the end of that year.

Still, many economists say any recession would likely be mild. American families are in much better financial shape than they were before the extended 2008-2009 Great Recession, when plunging home prices and lost jobs ruined many households' finances.

Nation

Yellowstone flooding forces 10K+ to leave national park

AP

This aerial photo provided by the National Park Service shows a washed out road at North Entrance Road, of Yellowstone National Park in Gardiner, Mont., on June 13, 2022.

RED LODGE, Mont. (AP)—More than 10,000 visitors were ordered out of Yellowstone as unprecedented flooding tore through the northern half of the nation's oldest national park, washing out bridges and roads and sweeping an employee bunkhouse miles downstream, officials said Tuesday. Remarkably, no one was reported injured or killed.

The only visitors left in the massive park straddling three states were a dozen campers still making their way out of the backcountry.

Yellowstone National Park, which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, could remain closed as long as a week, and northern entrances may not reopen this summer, Superintendent Cam Sholly said.

"The water is still raging," said Sholly, who noted that some weather forecasts include the possibility of additional flooding this weekend.

The Yellowstone River hit historic levels after days of rain and rapid snowmelt and wrought havoc across parts of southern Montana and northern Wyoming, where it washed away cabins, swamped small towns and knocked out power. It hit the park just as a summer tourist season that draws millions of visitors was ramping up.

Instead of marveling at massive elk and bison, burbling thermal pools and the reliable blast of Old Faithful's geyser, tourists found themselves witnessing nature at its most unpredictable as the Yellowstone River river crested in a chocolate brown torrent that washed away everything in its path.

"It is just the scariest river ever," Kate Gomez of Santa Fe, New Mexico, said Tuesday. "Anything that falls into that river is gone."

Waters were only starting to recede Tuesday, and the full extent of the destruction may not be known for a while. It was not expected to have affected wildlife.

US abortions rise: 1 in 5 pregnancies terminated in 2020

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

The number and rate of U.S. abortions increased from 2017 to 2020 after a long decline, according to figures released Wednesday.

The report from the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights, counted more than 930,000 abortions in the U.S. in 2020. That's up from about 862,000 abortions in 2017, when national abortion figures reached their lowest point since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized the procedure nationwide.

About one in five pregnancies ended in abortion in 2020, according to the report, which comes as the Supreme Court appears ready to overturn that decision.

The number of women obtaining abortions illustrates a need and "underscores just how devastating a Supreme Court decision is going to be for access to an absolutely vital service," said Sara Rosenbaum, a George Washington University health law and policy professor.

Medication abortions, the two-drug combination sometimes called the "abortion pill," accounted for 54% of U.S. abortions in 2020, the first time they made up more than half of abortions, Guttmacher said.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have pushed down the numbers in some states, according to the report. In New York, abortions increased from 2017 to 2019, then fell 6% between 2019 and 2020. One in 10 clinics in New York paused or stopped abortion care in 2020.

Texas saw a 2% decrease between 2019 and 2020, coinciding with pandemic-related abortion restrictions in the state.

Elsewhere, the pandemic may have limited access to contraception, some experts said, or discouraged women from undertaking all the health care visits involved in a pregnancy.

Yet, abortions already were inching upward before the coronavirus upended people's lives. One contributing factor: Some states expanded Medicaid access to abortion.

Illinois, for example, began allowing state Medicaid funds to pay for abortions starting in January 2018. The state saw abortions increase 25% between 2017 and 2020.

Asia

Victim of pandemic, Hong Kong floating restaurant towed away

AP

Hong Kong's iconic Jumbo Floating Restaurant is towed away in Hong Kong, Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

HONG KONG (AP)—A landmark floating restaurant that fed Cantonese cuisine and seafood to Queen Elizabeth II, Tom Cruise and millions of other diners was towed from the Hong Kong harborfront Tuesday after being closed by the pandemic.

The parent company of Jumbo Floating Restaurant couldn't find a new owner and lacked funds to maintain it after months of COVID-19 restrictions.

The massive floating restaurant designed like a Chinese imperial palace on Aberdeen Harbour was known for its Cantonese cuisine and seafood dishes. It received over 30 million guests since its establishment in 1976.

But Jumbo Floating Restaurant was forced to close in 2020 due to the pandemic, and all staff were laid off. Parent company Aberdeen Restaurant Enterprises said it had become a financial burden to shareholders, as millions of Hong Kong dollars were spent on inspection and maintenance of the floating restaurant every year even though the restaurant was not in operation.

"We do not foresee that (Jumbo Floating Restaurant) can resume business in the immediate future," the company said. It said potential deals to keep the restaurant open were thwarted by the high operating costs.

Tugboats towed the restaurant away Tuesday but it wasn't clear where it will berth next. The company planned to move it to a lower-cost site where maintenance could still be conducted.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam had previously rejected suggestions to bail out the restaurant, despite calls from lawmakers to preserve the iconic landmark.

Lam said last month that the government had no plans to invest taxpayers' money into the restaurant as the government was "not good" at running such premises, despite calls from lawmakers to preserve the restaurant.

Some Hong Kong residents recalled the heyday of Jumbo Kingdom, and expressed disappointment in seeing the restaurant go. It was famed for its lavish banquet meals, with dishes such as roasted suckling pig, lobster and double-boiled bird's nest, a Chinese delicacy.

China city mayor apologizes over COVID-19 response

BEIJING (AP)—The mayor of a northeastern Chinese city on the North Korean border that has been under lockdown for more than 50 days has apologized for failures in his administration's work amid widespread—but often disguised—dissatisfaction over the government's heavy-handed approach to handling the pandemic.

Dandong Mayor Hao Jianjun gave no specifics, but said government work and basic services had been "unsatisfactory," for which he offered his apologies, according to a statement issued by the city government late Monday.

It is highly unusual for a ranking Communist Party official to publicly concede errors, particularly regarding the hardline "zero-COVID" policy that has been repeatedly endorsed by top officials under President and party leader Xi Jinping.

Despite reporting only a handful of cases, Dandong has seen one of the strictest lockdowns in China.

In his reported comments at a meeting with residents, Hao acknowledged the sacrifices made by the city's 2.4 million citizens, along with the "complaining voices" among them over the government's work. Dandong would now be moving into a stage of pandemic control that would be "more proactive, more active and more effective," Hao said.

Unable to root out the source of new cases, Dandong officials took increasingly extreme measures, some of them of questionable scientific merit. That included recommending residents close their windows to prevent the virus being blown in from North Korea, even though its ability to spread through the air is extremely limited.

Authorities have also cracked down on smuggling across the Yalu River with North Korea, offering cash incentives for information on those involved. China has long held that the virus is spreading through packaging and other surfaces, despite little evidence showing that is a significant factor.

Officials at one point also transported residents of an entire apartment block to quarantine in the city of Shenyang, about 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of Dandong. Upon their release, it was discovered the positive case sparking the move had been in a resident of a neighboring building, leading to an angry confrontation between the residents and authorities.

World

Russia now controls 80% of key Ukraine city, cuts escape routes

LVIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian troops control about 80% of the fiercely contested eastern city of Sievierodonetsk and have destroyed all three bridges leading out of it but Ukrainians were still trying to evacuate the wounded, a regional official said Tuesday.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of the eastern Luhansk region, acknowledged that a mass evacuation of civilians from Sievierodonetsk now was "simply not possible" due to the relentless shelling and fighting. Ukrainian forces have been pushed to the industrial outskirts of the city because of "the scorched earth method and heavy artillery the Russians are using," he said.

"There is still an opportunity for the evacuation of the wounded, communication with the Ukrainian military and local residents," he told The Associated Press by telephone, adding that Russian soldiers have not yet completely blocked off the strategic city.

About 12,000 people remain in Sievierodonetsk, from a pre-war population of 100,000. More than 500 civilians are sheltering in the Azot chemical plant, which is being pounded by the Russians, according to Haidai.

In all, 70 civilians were evacuated from the Luhansk region in the last day, the governor said.

A Russian general, meanwhile, said a humanitarian corridor will be opened Wednesday to evacuate civilians from the Azot plant. Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev said evacuees would be taken to the town of Svatovo, 60 kilometers (35 miles) to the north in territory under the control of Russian and separatist forces.

He said the plan was made after Ukraine called for an evacuation corridor leading to territory it controls.

Mizintsev, head of the National Defense Management Center, is accused by Ukraine of human rights violations while commanding troops during the long siege of Mariupol, Ukraine's key port on the Sea of Azov, which has been taken over by the Russians.

Russian forces in the past few weeks have pressed hard to capture Ukraine's eastern industrial Donbas area, which borders Russia and is made up of the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk.

"The losses, unfortunately, are painful, but we have to hold out," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Tuesday in his nightly video address. "The more losses the enemy suffers there, the less strength it will have to continue the aggression. Therefore, the Donbas is key to determining who will dominate in the coming weeks."

As he does almost every day, Zelenskyy pleaded for more and faster deliveries of Western arms, this time specifically asking for anti-missile defense systems.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar said Tuesday the military had only received around 10% of the Western weapons it had requested "to create parity with the Russian army."

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran media: Scores injured in explosion at chemical factory

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi accepted the resignation of the country's labor minister, following weeks of protests by retirees, while the country is under heavy sanctions since 2018. Iran's government spokesman, Ali Bahadori Jahromi, said Tuesday that President Ebrahim Raisi has accepted the resignation of the country's labor minister, Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki on Monday. The resignation is the first for the government since hard-line Raisi took office less than a year ago. Raisi has three months to propose a new minister to the parliament for approval. Abdolmaleki said he resigned to keep the "harmony" of the Cabinet but would continue on as an advisor to the president. Mohamad Hadi Zahdivafa was named as caretaker of the labor ministry. Though the labor ministry said pensions had increased by up to 57% this year, many protesters say most retirees have only seen a 10% increase.

Satellite spots huge burst of methane from Russian coal mine

BERLIN (AP)—A private company that uses satellites to spot sources of methane emissions around the globe said Wednesday that it detected one of the largest artificial releases of the potent greenhouse gas ever seen, coming from a coal mine in Russia earlier this year. Montreal-based GHGSat said one of its satellites, known as 'Hugo,' observed 13 methane plumes at the Raspadskaya mine in Siberia on Jan. 14. The incident likely resulted in about 90 metric tons of methane being belched into the atmosphere in the space of an hour, the company calculated. "This was a really, really dramatic emission," Brody Wight, GHGSat's director of energy, landfills and mines told The Associated Press.

10 gunmen dead in shootout with police in central Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A shootout between police, soldiers and gunmen in central Mexico left ten suspects dead and four wounded on Tuesday. Prosecutors in the State of Mexico, which borders Mexico City, said three detectives were also wounded in the gun battle. Their injuries were apparently not life-threatening. The shooting occurred Tuesday about 80 miles (130 kilometers) southwest of Mexico City, in the town of Texcaltitlan, when the suspects opened fire on police. Prosecutors said the detectives seized 20 rifles, pistols and military-style uniforms and bulletproof vests at the scene. The area has been the scene of frequent killings and extortion by drug gangs.

UN says latest bout of tribal violence in Sudan killed 145

CAIRO (AP)—Clashes in Sudan killed at least 145 people and injured over 180 others this month, the United Nations said Tuesday, the latest tribal violence to rock the war-wrecked east African nation. The violence in West Darfur and South Kordofan provinces, some of the deadliest in recent years, comes as Sudan's turmoil worsens after an October military coup. The takeover upended the country's short-lived transition to democratic rule after a popular uprising forced the military's removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. The most recent bout of violence erupted last week in West Darfur's town of Kulbus over a land dispute between Arab and African tribes, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Local Arab militias then attacked multiple villages in the area, OCHA said. A total of 126 people were killed, including 101 from the Gimir tribe and 25 from the Arab Rizeigat tribe, it said. More than 130 others, mostly from the non-Arab tribe, were injured in the weeklong clashes, it added.

Environment

UN chief: Governments' inaction on climate is 'dangerous'

BERLIN (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres warned Tuesday of a "dangerous disconnect" between what scientists and citizens are demanding to curb climate change, and what governments are actually doing about it.

Guterres said global greenhouse gas emissions need to drop by 45% this decade, but are currently forecast to increase by 14%.

"We are witnessing a historic and dangerous disconnect: science and citizens are demanding ambitious and transformative climate action," he said at a climate conference in Austria. "Meanwhile many governments are dragging their feet. This inaction has grave consequences."

Guterres said Russia's war in Ukraine risked worsening the crisis, because major economies were "doubling down on fossil fuels" that are to blame for much of the emissions stoking global warming.

An oil well works at sunrise Aug. 25, 2021, in Watford City, N.D., part of McKenzie County. AP

"New funding for fossil fuel exploration and production infrastructure is delusional," he said in a video message to the Austrian World Summit, initiated by former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. "It will only further feed the scourge of war, pollution and climate catastrophe."

Guterres urged countries to instead end all coal use by 2040, with rich nations doing so by 2030, and focus on replacing fossil fuels with renewable sources of energy, such as solar and wind power.

"Renewables are the peace plan of the 21st century," he said.

Schwarzenegger, who has long campaigned against environmental pollution, said the war in Ukraine was another reason to stop using fossil fuels.

He cited research showing that Europe paid Russia tens of billions of dollars for energy imports in the first two months of the year.

"No matter how you look at it, we have blood on our hands because we are financing the war," said Schwarzenegger.

"We must do whatever it takes to eliminate our addiction to fossil fuels," he added. "We must be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Failure is no option here."

NC could lose up to 40% of its wetlands to sea level rise by 2070

By ADAM WAGNER
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

RALEIGH, N.C.—Sea level rise poses a grave threat to salt marshes and other coastal wetlands along the North Carolina coast, according to a newly published study.

North Carolina and Louisiana are the only two states that could lose coastal wetlands under virtually any sea level rise scenario. The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal Environment Research Communications.

"North Carolina may benefit a lot from different wetlands protection measures, but it also needs to prepare for a world with fewer wetlands and think about what that looks like," said Climate Central CEO and chief scientist Ben Strauss, who was one of the study's authors.

The Climate Central team produced a mapping tool that can show estimates for different sea level rise and land use scenarios. For example, if the world meets the 2015 Paris Agreement target of keeping global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (about 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) and North Carolina fully develops its coast, Climate Central found it could lose about 40% of its coastal wetlands by 2070 and 62% by 2100. If North Carolina fully conserves its coastline under the same scenario, Climate Central estimates that it could increase wetlands 42% by 2070 and 41% by 2100.

North Carolina's 220,000 acres of salt marsh offer a wide variety of benefits from providing habitat for juvenile fish to taking the force out of waves during hurricanes. Salt marshes naturally migrate inland, but many have struggled to keep pace with quickly rising sea levels. And when a bulkhead or home is built alongside a marsh, that migration becomes impossible, dooming the ecosystem.

A McClatchy report last year found that there has been a 22% increase in developed land within a half mile of salt marshes across North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia since 1996. Since 2009, North Carolina regulators have approved about 3,300 permits for bulkheads.

The Climate Central study indicates that while wetlands up and down the North Carolina coast would be imperiled by sea level rise, the northeastern part of the state faces greater risk.

"Our analysis amounts to, simply don't develop lowlands adjacent to these wetlands," Strauss said. "That's all it is."

Letting salt marshes move

The findings come as little surprise to groups who have been working to preserve North Carolina's coastal wetlands. The Coastal Federation, for example, has long touted the benefits of living shorelines—marsh sills that allow sediment to build up along the coastline in an effort to help salt marshes keep pace with rising seas.

Kerri Allen, a coastal advocate who manages the Federation's Wrightsville Beach office, said wetlands play a vital role in North Carolina's coastal economy.

"Without healthy wetlands we don't have healthy waterways, we don't have clean water, we don't have beaches that people want to come swim in," Allen said.

Allen agrees that purchasing large parcels of undeveloped land or placing conservation easements on targeted parcels could play a key role in wetlands preservation.

"That is really going to be an important tool in that toolbox," Allen said, "and really one that I think is not discussed as often as it should be when talking about sea level rise and climate change and our vulnerability here on the coast."

The Coastal Federation started such project in 1999 with the North River Wetlands Preserve. The 6,000-acre Carteret County tract was once a working farm, but wetlands across much of the land have been restored or preserved.

Pew Charitable Trusts has supported the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability's South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative. That effort, which launched in May 2021, has set out to conserve a million acres of salt marsh from North Carolina to Florida by working with a broad range of groups from the Department of Defense to the Gullah/Geechee Nation.

Leda Cunningham works on coastal issues for the Pew Charitable Trusts and is based in North Carolina. Cunningham said the state is an example of a place where it is important to not only consider and protect where marshes are today, but where they could be in the future.

The patchwork of interests that own land along and adjacent to the coast can make that difficult.

"Coastal communities really stand to gain by protecting their shorelines, especially with green infrastructure," Cunningham said. "This is about our own communities' survival."

Measuring salt marshes

Hannah Sirianni, an East Carolina University coastal geographer, has set out to measure wetlands, particularly around the Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge in Hyde County.

Sirianni expressed concern that the Climate Central study and maps do not reflect marsh elevation accurately enough to be used to guide local planning. The laser from the lidar measurement system used, Sirianni said, cannot penetrate wetlands' thick grasses and vegetation.

Colorado will lose half its snow by 2080 and look more like Arizona, federal scientists say

By BRUCE FINLEY
THE DENVER POST

Parts of Colorado, Wyoming and Utah are drying out due to climate-driven changes in stream flows, and these states will shift to become more like the most arid states of the Southwest, federal researchers found in a scientific study published last week.

The lead author of the study said Colorado will experience a 50% to 60% reduction in snow by 2080.

"We're not saying Colorado is going to become a desert. But we see increased aridity moving forward," said hydrologist Katrina Bennett at the federal government's Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

The researchers used an artificial intelligence "machine learning" system that allowed them to analyze massive amounts of data collected over 30 years including soil moisture, volumes of water in streams, evapotranspiration rates, temperature and precipitation across the varying landscapes within the Colorado River Basin. Tracking the West's hydrology on such a scale previously would have taken years.

They concluded that large losses of snow will transform high elevation areas and that the phenomenon of melting snow that creates water will disappear entirely in some areas as temperatures rise.

The study was published, following peer review, in the journal Earth and Space Science and distributed Thursday by officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For Colorado and surrounding "upper basin" states, the scientists projected wide shrinking of snow, leading to less spring snow melting followed by decreasing water in streams, especially in the Rocky Mountains. The study predicted, in particular, markedly increased aridity along the Green River as it flows near the borders of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

"In some parts of Colorado, we will see a higher-elevation preservation of snowpack, because it is so high," Bennett said, citing the mountains above Leadville in central-western Colorado.

"But other areas like the San Juan Mountains were seen to be losing snowpack significantly," she said.

The unsupervised machine-learning system greatly accelerates analysis of weather and hydrology data, giving a robust new way of incorporating vast data to anticipate changes and track trends. Bennett said she and her colleagues plan to apply their system to analyze the drought-prone Rio Grande River Basin covering southern Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

The Colorado River Basin encompasses a seven-state area from sea level at the Gulf of California to mountain peaks higher than 14,000 feet in Colorado. Water in the basin supplies food growers including those who produce a large portion of the nation's fruits and vegetables. Expanding cities — including Albuquerque, Denver, Colorado Springs, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, San Diego and Santa Fe — rely on water diverted from the river and its tributaries to survive.

Life & Style

K-pop supergroup BTS says it's making time for solo projects

Global superstars BTS said they are taking time to focus on solo projects, but the company behind the groundbreaking K-pop group said they are not taking a hiatus.

The seven-member group with hits like "Butter" and "Dynamite" talked about their future in a video posted Tuesday celebrating the nine year anniversary of their debut release. They just released a three-disc anthology album, "Proof," last week.

Band member Suga asked the group if they should talk about why they were going into a hiatus as they sat down for a group dinner. They discussed having to deal with COVID-19 interrupting their touring plans and music releases, as well as what each one thought about their individual artistic goals.

BTS arrives at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards on April 3, 2022, in Las Vegas. AP

The group spoke in Korean, and the word "hiatus" was used on English subtitles included on the video.

But a statement from Hybe, the South Korean entertainment company behind BTS, said they'll still be working on projects as a group, as well as individually. "BTS are not taking a hiatus. Members will be focusing more on solo projects at this time," the statement said.

No details about future BTS collaborations or the solo projects were announced Tuesday. BTS has a global fanbase that follows the group and members online and in recent years the group's profile has rose overseas. The group recently address the UN General Assembly and went to the White House to discuss with President Joe Biden ways to curb violence against Asian Americans.

The band members—J-Hope, RM, Suga, Jungkook, V, Jin and Jimin—opened up about the struggle to develop as individual artists within the K-pop genre.

"The problem with K-pop and the whole idol system is that don't give you time to mature," said RM. Some of the group members appeared to be crying during the conversation.

So long, Internet Explorer. The browser retires

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Internet Explorer is finally headed out to pasture.

As of Wednesday, Microsoft will no longer support the once-dominant browser that legions of web surfers loved to hate—and a few still claim to adore. The 27-year-old application now joins BlackBerry phones, dial-up modems and Palm Pilots in the dustbin of tech history.

IE's demise was not a surprise. A year ago, Microsoft said that it was putting an end to Internet Explorer on June 15, 2022, pushing users to its Edge browser, which was launched in 2015.

The company made clear then it was time to move on.

AP

The Microsoft Internet Explorer logo is projected on a screen during a Microsoft Xbox E3 media briefing in Los Angeles, June 4, 2012.

"Not only is Microsoft Edge a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer, but it is also able to address a key concern: compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications," Sean Lyndersay, general manager of Microsoft Edge Enterprise, wrote in a May 2021 blog post.

Users marked Explorer's passing on Twitter, with some referring to it as a "bug-ridden, insecure POS" or the "top browser for installing other browsers." For others it was a moment for 90's nostalgia memes, while The Wall Street Journal quoted a 22-year-old who was sad to see IE go.

Microsoft released the first version of Internet Explorer in 1995, the antediluvian era of web surfing dominated by the first widely popular browser, Netscape Navigator. Its launch signaled the beginning of the end of Navigator: Microsoft went on to tie IE and its ubiquitous Windows operating system together so tightly that many people simply used it by default instead of Navigator.

Amber Heard says she stands by 'every word' of her testimony

NEW YORK (AP)—Amber Heard says she stands by the testimony she gave during a contentious six-week libel trial against former husband Johnny Depp, saying she has "always told the truth."

"That's all I spoke. And I spoke it to power. And I paid the price," Heard said in her first post-verdict interview, two weeks after a jury awarded Depp more than $10 million and vindicated his allegations that Heard lied about Depp abusing her.

Depp sued Heard for libel in Virginia over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in The Washington Post describing herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." His lawyers said he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name. Though the jury sided with Depp, Heard was also awarded $2 million over her claim that one of Depp's attorneys defamed her.

"To my dying day, I'll stand by every word of my testimony," Heard told NBC's "Today" co-host Savannah Guthrie, in an interview airing Tuesday and Wednesday. "I made a lot of mistakes, but I've always told the truth."

Depp, who has not yet done a formal interview about the case, has said the verdict "gave me my life back."

When referring to Depp's legal team, Heard said, "His lawyer did a better job at distracting the jury from the real issues."

Boyfriend's bedroom gets a bit crowded on weekends

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Paul," and I have been together for 18 months. We are both divorced and each have two children. Mine are in college. His are in elementary and middle school. They stay overnight with him on the weekends.

When they are there, I go home and sleep at my place. Over the last few months, Paul has asked me to stay the night when they are there; however, he wants me to sleep on the couch because they sleep in the bed with him. A few weeks ago, he announced, "I'm going to talk to them about you and me sleeping in my bed together and see if they are OK with that." Since then, I have heard nothing, so I continue going to my own place at night.

My questions are: Is it acceptable for children to sleep in the same bed with their parent? And, is it acceptable for children to decide if Paul and I sleep together?

CONFUSED IN KANSAS

DEAR CONFUSED: The answers to your questions are "Yes," and "No." In some cultures, it is common for families to share the same sleeping accommodations, including a family bed. In our culture, it is less common but not unheard of, particularly with kids much younger than his.

As to your second question, Paul may be uncomfortable raising the subject with his children, or they may have told him they like the status quo and he hasn't communicated that to you. But they are not the ones who should make that decision. As the adult in the family, that privilege should be his. And after 18 months together, you should be comfortable enough to ask him anything.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, I had a falling-out with my siblings and my mother. I was in an emotionally and physically abusive marriage. They wanted me to leave, but after seven years of his brainwashing, I was convinced that I was worthless, that no one cared about me but him and that I would end up on the street alone and unable to live without him. My siblings invited me out to visit them and proceeded to browbeat me into leaving him. After three nights of six-hour sessions of being berated and hearing I was a terrible mother for staying with him, it was almost a relief to go home to my husband. At least there I expected it.

Long story short, I haven't spoken to my family in 20 years. I escaped that marriage five years ago, and my mother and I slowly began rebuilding a relationship over Facebook—I'm in Michigan, and she's in New York. Three months ago, she passed away.

One of my siblings unfriended me and my daughter from my mother's Facebook before they posted that she passed away. I heard the news from one of my friends who was also FB friends with my mother. Someone I know is saying I should reach out to my siblings and try to rebuild a relationship. What are your thoughts?

LIKE AN ONLY CHILD

DEAR LIKE: That your siblings would unfriend you and your daughter from your mother's Facebook page so you wouldn't know she was gone was cruel, unnecessary and shameful. If you want to reach out to your siblings, by all means do so, but before you do that, please talk with a licensed mental health professional or your religious adviser, if you have one. You have suffered much pain and rejection from your abusive husband, and you may encounter more from your siblings, so before you approach them, be prepared.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

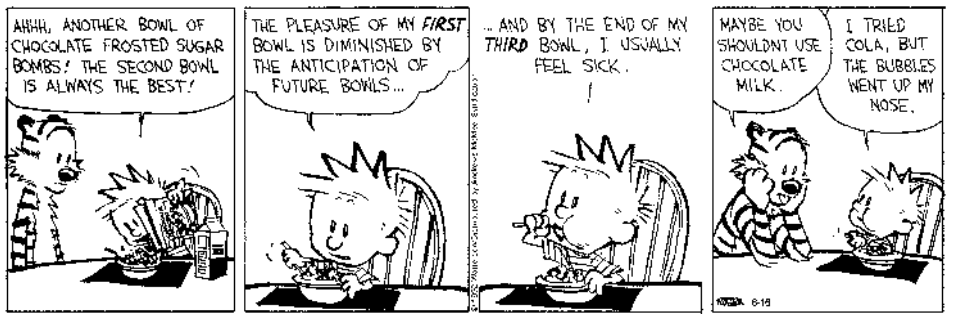
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

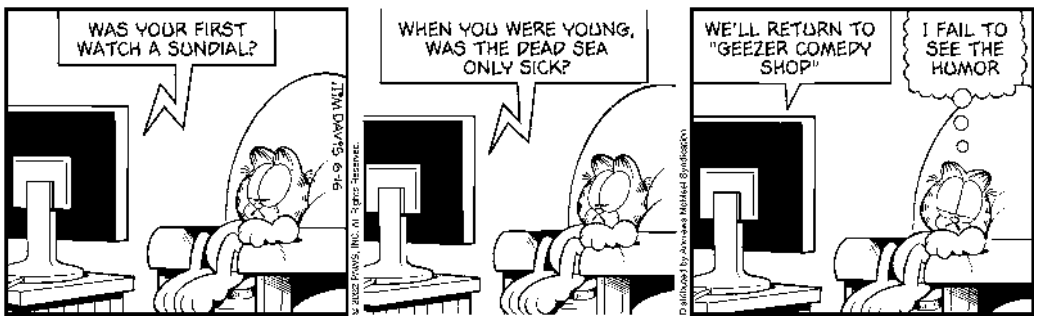
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AHHH, ANOTHER BOWL OF CHOCOLATE FROSTED SUGAR BOMBS! THE SECOND BOWL IS ALWAYS THE BEST!
THE PLEASURE OF MY FIRST BOWL IS DIMINISHED BY THE ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE BOWLS...
...AND BY THE END OF MY THIRD BOWL, I USUALLY FEEL SICK.
MAYBE YOU SHOULDNT USE CHOCOLATE MILK.
I TRIED COLA, BUT THE BUBBLES WENT UP MY NOSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WAS YOUR FIRST WATCH A SUNDIAL?
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, WAS THE DEAD SEA ONLY SICK?
WE'LL RETURN TO "GEEZER COMEDY SHOP"
I FAIL TO SEE THE HUMOR

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SISTER-CANCELING HEADPHONE TEST: DAY ONE
OKAY. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
WHAT?
PERFECT! NEXT WE'LL TEST IT WITH AN ACTUAL ANNOYING LITTLE SISTER!
THIS COULD CHANGE THE GAME, PERCY!
TOLERATING SIBLINGS WILL NEVER BE THE...
ARE YOU TALKING? IF YOU'RE TALKING, I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

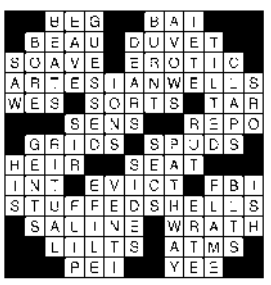
ACROSS

1 Praise
5 Happy hour venue
8 Urban haze
12 Diminutive suffix
13 "The Greatest"
14 Mama's mate
15 Linguist Chomsky
16 "Kapow!"
17 Colony denizens
18 Orb
20 Dispatch
22 Still
26 Graduation garments
29 Charged bit
30 Box office purchases, slangily
31 God of war
32 Invoice fig.
33 Richard of "Chicago"
34 Lass
35 Rushmore face
36 Mexican money
37 Hot right now
40 Castle defense
41 Legal
45 "Zounds!"
47 — Aviv
49 Employ
50 Zilch
51 Historic time
52 Misfortunes
53 Yon folks
54 Parched
55 Pizzazz

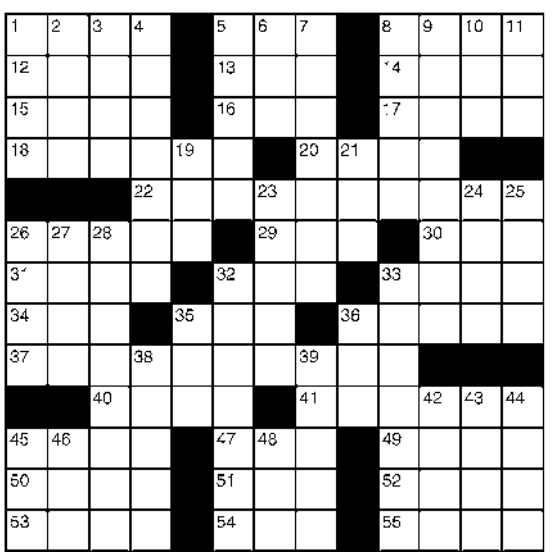
DOWN

1 Camera part
2 At the summit of
3 Nevada neighbor
4 Abases
5 Biblical tower
6 In the style of
7 Sound after a one-liner
8 Bridges
9 Authoritative orders
10 Choose
11 Helium, for one
19 "Kidnapped" monogram
21 Poetic dusk
23 Stopwatch
24 Painter Joan
25 Former mates
26 Infatuated
27 Spoken
28 Built to last
32 Aided in a crime
33 "Golly!"
35 "Now I get it!"
36 Links org.
38 Now
39 Relieve
42 Dossier
43 Web addresses
44 For fear that
45 Tolkien creature
46 "How frustrating!"
48 Mess up

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abby Elliott, 35; Eddie Cibrian, 49; Phil Mickelson, 52; Laurie Metcalf, 67.

Happy Birthday: Put your time and effort where they will do some good. Helping a cause you believe in will lead to valuable connections. Take it upon yourself to turn whatever you don't like in your life into something that makes you proud. Your hard work, perceptiveness and resourcefulness will lead to a well-organized life. Your numbers are 6, 13, 24, 28, 30, 36, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Emotional anger will get you in trouble. Sort through your options and put the negativity aside. A positive attitude will give you a better advantage in a competitive or challenging situation. Take the safest route. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't ruin a good thing by overanalyzing your next move. Go with the flow, and utilize your time and skills to your advantage. A personal change will raise your profile. Go over minute details before ironing out any discrepancies you find. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take care of your to-do list, and promote and present what you accomplish. Don't give anyone the chance to take advantage of you or steal your thunder. Listen carefully, and use the information you receive to help you outsmart the competition. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Adjust and keep moving. Timing is everything, and staying current will ensure that you live up to your promises. You'll make life easier if you think before you overdo it physically, financially or emotionally. Moderation, preparation and organization are essential. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Broaden your interests, gather information and use your skills, experience and knowledge to help others. Focus on what you can do, not the impossible. Put your energy into clearing up your responsibilities quickly, then move on to more enticing pastimes. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Your changes will make you feel good and will fetch compliments. Get out and do your part to network, and most of all, have some fun. Refuse to let people with negative attitudes get in your way. Love who you are and do your best. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Concentrate on money matters, health and contracts. A steady pace and a good understanding of what you can accomplish will help you advance. You can avoid problems if you are willing to compromise and spend more time with someone you love. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* If you reach out to friends and relatives, you'll be the recipient of valuable information that will help you make a good purchase or investment. Share your thoughts with someone you love, and you'll gain new perspective on how to proceed. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Dig in and don't stop until you are satisfied. Spend more time at home making adjustments that add to your comfort. Entertain more often. A meaningful relationship will go through a transformation. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't get involved in other people's dilemmas. Focus on what's happening at home, make positive changes that put your mind at ease, save you money and encourage you to feel good about yourself and what you have accomplished. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Share your thoughts, and make decisions based on the response you receive. Changing how you live or deal with loved ones, finances and health will have lasting effects on your life. Concentrate on what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Think less and do more. If you spend too much time waffling, you won't accomplish what others expect. A personal change you want to make will turn out better than anticipated. Love and romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, persistent and proactive. You are original and resourceful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		7					
		6	2	5	7			
4		7					8	
	1						7	
5	4						6	2
	7						3	
	9					8		6
		4	2	6	7			
				3		1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Yesterday's Answer

9	4	8	2	5	7	6	1	3
5	7	6	4	1	3	9	2	8
1	2	3	6	8	9	4	7	5
7	8	5	3	6	4	1	9	2
3	9	4	1	2	8	7	5	6
2	6	1	9	7	5	8	3	4
4	1	7	8	3	2	5	6	9
8	5	2	7	9	6	3	4	1
6	3	9	5	4	1	2	8	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

YARD WASTE — Solution: 6 letters

M	H	R	E	D	D	E	R	H	S	T	W	I	N	E
S	A	A	O	R	G	A	N	I	C	R	N	W	A	L
S	E	T	U	D	H	L	E	H	S	U	Ⓑ	C	S	C
T	L	L	E	L	S	S	G	S	T	N	Ⓐ	L	P	Y
O	I	H	B	R	I	N	U	A	H	K	Ⓖ	I	I	C
C	O	N	T	A	I	N	E	R	S	S	Ⓢ	P	H	E
K	S	D	E	R	T	A	G	T	B	P	T	O	C	R
P	P	I	T	T	S	E	L	D	N	U	B	R	P	R
I	O	S	S	S	A	R	G	S	L	M	H	I	A	E
L	T	P	V	S	I	R	B	E	D	P	C	E	G	W
E	T	O	E	G	A	N	A	M	V	K	L	W	R	O
D	R	S	G	O	L	V	S	P	U	I	U	A	I	L
O	E	A	T	A	E	P	K	P	E	N	M	S	N	F
O	E	L	K	S	S	D	E	E	W	S	L	T	D	D
F	S	C	L	E	A	N	T	S	H	T	A	E	R	W

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Bags, Basket, Brush, Bundles, Bushel, Chips, Clean, Clip, Containers, Debris, Disposal, Flower, Food, Grass, Grind, Hauling, Hedge, Land, Lawn, Leaves, Logs, Manage, Materials, Mulch, Organic, Peat, Pickup, Plants, Pumpkins, Rake, Recycle, Separate, Shredder, Stockpiled, Straw, String, Topsoil, Trash, Trees, Trunks, Twine, Vegetables, Waste, Weeds, Wreaths

Yesterday's Answer: Fingers

The NEW **Treasury 48** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Mikolas 1 strike short of no-hitter; Cards sweep Pirates

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Miles Mikolas was one strike from a no-hitter when he gave up a double to Cal Mitchell with two outs in the ninth inning, and the St. Louis Cardinals routed the Pittsburgh Pirates 9-1 to sweep a doubleheader Tuesday night.

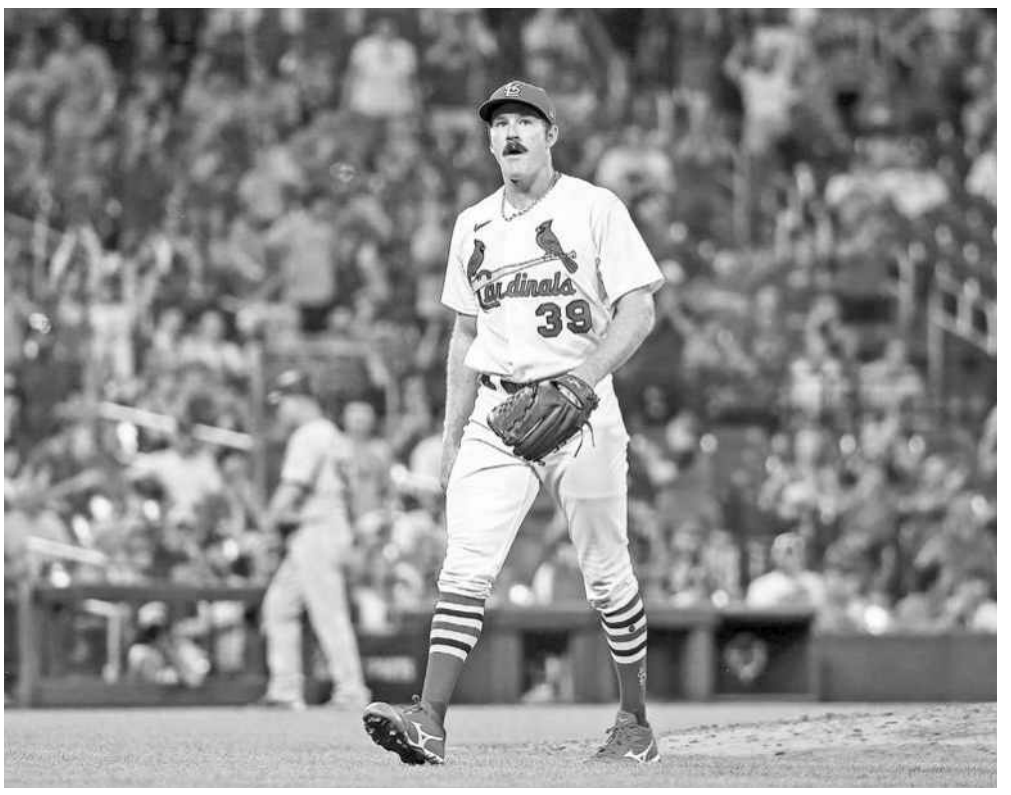
Mitchell drove a 2-2 curveball over the head of Gold Glove center fielder Harrison Bader and just beyond his outstretched glove as he tried to make a running catch with his back to home plate.

The ball bounced on the warning track 383 feet from the plate and over the wall in straightaway center for a ground-rule double.

The hit came on the 129th pitch from Mikolas (5-4), a career high. He was lifted right after that for Packy Naughton, who got the final out to hand the Pirates their ninth straight loss.

Paul Goldschmidt homered twice and drove in five runs for the Cardinals, who have won five of six. Tommy Edman also went deep and Brendan Donovan had his first career four-hit game.

Bryse Wilson (0-4) gave up seven runs in five innings for the Pirates.



AP

St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Miles Mikolas walks to the dugout after pitching during the eighth inning in the second game of the baseball team's doubleheader against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, in St. Louis.

Cardinals 3, Pirates 1, game 1

In St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs, leading St. Louis over Pittsburgh 3-1 in a doubleheader opener.

Goldschmidt hit a go-ahead, two-run drive in the third inning off JT Brubaker (0-7), and boosted the lead to 3-0 with an RBI grounder in the fourth.

Yadier Molina had 11 putouts on 10 strikeouts and a foul popup, and with 14,870 passed Iván Rodríguez (14,864) for most among catchers in major league history.

Matthew Liberatore (2-1) allowed three hits in five scoreless innings, striking out five and walking two in his fourth big league start. Giovanny Gallegos pitched a one-hit ninth for his ninth save in 12 chances, finishing a seven-hitter.

Braves 10, Nationals 4

In Washington, Michael Harris II and Travis d'Arnaud each had three hits and homered for the second straight game, and Atlanta connected five times to beat Washington for its 13th straight win.

Atlanta hit back-to-back homers for the third straight game, this time doing it twice. D'Arnaud and Marcell Ozuna went deep in the third inning, and Orlando Arcia and Harris followed in the sixth.

Dansby Swanson also homered for the Braves, who have clubbed 32 home runs during the winning streak, the longest in the majors this season.

Max Fried (7-2) went 5 2/3 innings, allowing four runs on six hits while striking out six and walking one. Jackson Stephens pitched the final three innings for his second save.

Jackson Tetreault (0-1) allowed seven runs on nine hits over four innings in his major league debut.

Dodgers 2, Angels 0

In Los Angeles, Tony Gonsolin tossed 6 1/3 strong innings, Mookie Betts hit his 17th home run and the Los Angeles Dodgers held off the Angels in their Freeway Series opener.

Gonsolin (8-0), who leads the National League in wins, lowered his ERA to 1.42. He struck out six and walked two. The right-hander has allowed two runs or fewer in all 12 starts this season.

The Angels loaded the bases with one out in the ninth before Craig Kimbrel struck out Jared Walsh and Max Stassi for his 12th save. The Angels have gone 17 innings without scoring and dropped 17 of 19 overall.

The Dodgers earned their fifth shutout of the season and avoided their second four-game skid. The Angels' slide continued with their 10th straight road defeat.

Mets 4, Brewers 0

In New York, Chris Bassitt pitched eight sharp innings of three-hit ball, Pete Alonso drove in two runs and New York beat struggling Milwaukee.

Bassitt (5-4) allowed just three singles and one walk with seven strikeouts. He got the Brewers to hit into double plays right after each of their hits. Drew Smith worked a perfect ninth to complete the Mets' 10th shutout of the season.

Milwaukee has dropped nine of 10, getting shut out four times during that span. Adrian Houser (3-7) allowed four runs on eight hits and one walk with three strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings.

Yankees 2, Rays 0

In New York, Gerrit Cole put a career-worst pummeling behind him with six sharp innings, and New York capitalized on shaky defense by Tampa Bay.

The AL East-leading Yankees won their fifth straight. New York had just five hits but improved to 45-16, the best 61-game start across baseball since Seattle in 2001.

Cole (6-1) struck out seven, walked one and allowed five hits, all singles.

Ex-Yankee Corey Kluber (3-3) countered Cole with six innings, allowing two unearned runs, four hits and a walk with three strikeouts.

Marlins 11, Phillies 9

In Philadelphia, Jesús Aguilar homered, drove in four runs and hit a go-ahead double in the ninth inning to lead Miami to a wild win over Philadelphia.

Jazz Chisholm Jr., Avisaíl Garcia and Jacob Stallings also went deep for Miami, which has won six of eight.

Rhys Hoskins hit two homers, had four hits and drove in six runs for the Phillies, who lost for the second time in their last 12 games.

After Hoskins broke an 8-all tie with his second homer of the game, a solo shot in the eighth off Steven Okert (3-0), the Marlins capitalized against closer Corey Knebel (2-5) and Philadelphia's shaky defense in the ninth.

Astros 4, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Kyle Tucker extended his career-best hitting streak to 13 games with a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning, and AL West-leading Houston rallied past Texas.

Rangers reliever John King (1-3) retired only one of the five batters he faced. That was an RBI groundout by Yordan Álvarez on the pitch before Tucker hit his 12th homer of the season, a two-run shot that capped the four-run outburst.

Bryan Abreu (4-0), the first of three Astros relievers, threw a scoreless seventh. Ryan Pressly worked the ninth for his 12th save in 14th chances.

Padres 12, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Luke Voit hit a two-run homer and a three-run double as San Diego rallied from a five-run deficit to hand Chicago its eighth straight loss.

The Padres trailed 5-0 when Cubs starter Kyle Hendricks was pulled after allowing a double to Jake Cronenworth to start the sixth inning. Voit homered off reliever Chris Martin to spark a four-run sixth, and his double off Mychal Givens gave the Padres the lead for good at 7-5 and highlighted a six-run seventh.

Willson Contreras homered twice, drove in three runs and scored three times on a 3-for-4 night for the Cubs.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 5

In Toronto, Ryan Mountcastle hit a two-run home run, Austin Hays had a solo shot and Baltimore held on to beat Toronto.

Mountcastle went 3 for 5 with a pair of doubles and scored twice.

Jordan Lyles (4-5) allowed five hits and four runs in 5 1/3 innings to win for the first time in four starts as the Orioles snapped a seven-game losing streak against the Blue Jays. Jorge López recorded the final five outs for his ninth save in 11 chances.

Matt Chapman homered and rookie catcher Gabriel Moreno had three hits and drove in the first runs of his career, but Toronto couldn't overcome another rough start by left-hander Yusei Kikuchi (2-3), whose winless streak reached five starts.

Red Sox 6, Athletics 1

In Boston, Rafael Devers hit a three-run homer, Nick Pivetta pitched eight strong innings and Boston beat slumping Oakland.

Oakland had just two hits off Pivetta (6-5) until Stephen Vogt's solo homer in the eighth broke up the shutout bid. Pivetta allowed one run on three hits, walked two and struck out three. Phillips Valdez completed the four-hitter.

White Sox 5, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Chicago's Dylan Cease allowed one run in five innings to remain unbeaten in 10 decisions against Detroit.

Cease (5-3) allowed one unearned run on seven hits and a walk. He struck out eight while improving to 10-0 with a 1.91 ERA in 11 career starts against the Tigers.

Andrew Vaughn had four hits and Luis Robert drove in a pair of runs for the White Sox.

Drew Hutchison (0-4) gave up two runs on five hits and two walks in four innings.

Guardians 4, Rockies 3, 10 innings

In Denver, José Ramírez doubled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning to lift Cleveland over Colorado.

Ramírez also had a two-run single and Josh Naylor doubled twice and had an RBI hit for Cleveland. Charlie Blackmon hit his 10th home run of the season, a tying two-run drive in the bottom of the seventh inning, and C.J. Cron had a run-scoring triple for the Rockies.

Ramírez ground sharply into right field off the first pitch he saw from Robert Stephenson (0-1), scoring automatic runner Amed Rosario from second base.

Bryan Shaw (2-0) pitched a scoreless ninth and Emmanuel Clase got three outs for his 12th save.

Mariners 5, Twins 0

In Seattle, Eugenio Suárez and Ty France each clubbed a two-run homer, Logan Gilbert and three relievers combined on a four-hitter and Seattle blanked Minnesota.

Suárez hit his team-leading 12th long ball in the fourth and France launched his 10th homer an inning later to chase Minnesota starter Joe Ryan. Sam Haggerty added an RBI double in the seventh.

Gilbert (7-2) lowered his ERA to 2.22, striking out six and walking one over six smooth innings.

Ryan (5-3) made his first start since being placed on the COVID-19 injured list May 25. He gave up five hits in 4 2/3 innings.

Giants 4, Royals 2

In San Francisco, Logan Webb pitched five-hit ball over seven scoreless innings to win for the first time in a month, and San Francisco beat Kansas City for its fifth straight victory.

Webb (6-2) struck out a season-high nine and walked three. He had been 0-1 in five starts since a May 13 win at St. Louis.

Tommy La Stella had two sacrifice flies and Camilo Doval earned his ninth save in 11 chances.

Kansas City has lost 12 of 16. At 20-41, the Royals have the worst record in the majors.

Kris Bubic (0-4) lowered his ERA from 9.13 to 8.36. He gave up three runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Reds 5, Diamondbacks 3, 12 innings

In Phoenix, Albert Almora Jr. tripled home the go-ahead run in the 12th after Tyler Mahle pitched nine brilliant innings, and Cincinnati outlasted Arizona.

Mahle tossed three-hit ball and became the first pitcher since 1900 to not win while throwing nine or more scoreless innings on the road with at least 12 strikeouts and no walks, according to STATS. He threw a career-high 119 pitches.

Zach Davies allowed six hits in seven scoreless innings, walked none and struck out seven.

Cincinnati has won three in a row for the first time since taking four straight from May 25-28.

Arizona has lost eight of 11.

In a game that was scoreless through nine innings, the Reds took a 4-3 lead on Almora's triple in the 12th off Sean Poppen (1-1). Jonathan India brought home Almora with a single.

Joel Kuhnel needed just five pitches in a perfect 12th for his first big league save.

Kyle Farmer's two-run single in the 11th gave the Reds a 3-1 lead. But the Diamondbacks rallied in the bottom half when Luis Cessa (3-1) threw two run-scoring wild pitches with two outs.

Curry, Green, Thompson seek one win to add another title

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates after guard Klay Thompson, right, shot a 3-point basket during the second half of Game 5 of basketball's NBA Finals against the Boston Celtics in San Francisco, Monday, June 13, 2022.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—When Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and emotional, do-everything teammate Draymond Green began Golden State's climb nearly a decade ago, they were still relatively young and each establishing themselves in their careers.

At far different stages of their respective basketball journeys and lives now all these years later, they are again closing in on another championship together as the cornerstones of what many consider a Warriors dynasty they helped make. Their chance to win a fourth title comes Thursday night in Boston, where the Warriors take a 3-2 NBA Finals lead into Game 6 against the Celtics.

The Splash Brothers and Green now have 20 wins together in the finals, the second most for any NBA trio since 1970. They are approaching the company of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson and Michael Cooper, who won 22 finals games together with the Lakers.

With Monday's 104-94 Game 5 win, the Golden State stars topped the 19 victories accomplished by Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili with the Spurs.

"We want to have one more to show for it and one more win, and really embrace what we've accomplished to be back on this stage," Curry said after the game, when he went 0 for 9 on 3-pointers to snap a record 233-game streak of making at least one.

"Obviously making six finals, you have a lot of opportunities. You enjoy every single one of them. So this series is no different. And one more win, just got to figure out a way to get it done."

Coach Steve Kerr has been here for the six NBA Finals appearances over eight years, including five straight from 2015-19.

They all have gone through so much in recent seasons — most notably two devastating injuries for Thompson — that this opportunity is being especially cherished.

"It's so exciting to be part of the finals again. I think this whole season has kind of led to this, a lot of individual stories, guys getting better, guys getting healthy," Kerr said. "Here we are, we have a chance. We have two cracks at getting one win, but we also know how difficult it's going to be."

It seems so long ago, yet all three Warriors leaders have pointed to that early time bringing respectability back to the franchise as significant in building the necessary experience that helps them on the big postseason stage now. Perspective has been gained through winning three championships and in losing twice, too.

Curry and Green are now fathers who finish practice and prefer to get home right away for family time, while Thompson has a greater appreciation for everything on and off the court after being sidelined for more than 2 1/2 years following surgeries on his left knee and right Achilles tendon.

"Now to be here again, I wouldn't change anything," Thompson said. "I'm very grateful and everything I did to that point led to this, so I would not change a thing."

Well before Thompson returned at long last in January, he offered a "championship or bust" vow for this season that he hopes to deliver this week.

These three 30-somethings are relishing this remarkable postseason run with more gratitude and the realization of how hard it is to get here. That's what a couple of disappointing seasons does on the heels of so much winning.

Even with all the differences and new faces from those previous championship teams, Curry, Green and Thompson were determined to keep the faith that everything would work out to build another winning roster.

"So just really embracing and appreciating each process for what it is, because every year is its own year, is its own journey, and appreciating that journey and actually going through it," Green said. "Not doing all you can to get around it thinking, 'Oh, man, we'll just get back there.' Just appreciating that journey and actually putting yourself in it and going through it — feeling the ups, feeling the downs, and then ultimately it takes some extreme competitors."

While these three had veterans like Andre Iguodala — he's still around — and Shaun Livingston leading the way as they gained experience, it's now Curry, Green and Thompson offering guidance with youngsters such as rookie Jonathan Kuminga, Jordan Poole and even finals first-timer Andrew Wiggins.

Green thinks things are different than even when joined the Warriors as a second-round draft pick at 35th overall out of Michigan State in 2012. He tries to approach the young players with an understanding for the pressures they feel.

"You end up having to learn their generation because you just can't lead them the same way you could lead someone that's kind of our generation," he said. "You figure out what buttons to press, and how do you get to them, how to treat them and what's the best way. ... I learned to treat or look at him as more than a son or a brother, and that's just all part of growth."

Grueling playoffs take toll on Celtics in NBA Finals

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The wear and tear from back-to-back seven-game series seems to be taking its toll on the Boston Celtics at the worst possible time.

Tired legs have led to shots falling short down the stretch in back-to-back losses that have left the Celtics on the brink of elimination heading into Game 6 of the NBA Finals on Thursday night in Boston.

The Celtics missed 11 of 15 shots in the fourth quarter of a 104-94 loss to the Golden State Warriors in Game 5 on Monday night.

"I had a couple shots that were short," star Jayson Tatum said. "I just got to not fade as much. Use my legs. You're going to be a little more tired in the fourth than you are in the first quarter. You got to get your legs a little more under you on a couple of those shots. Give yourself a chance."

The Celtics are the 12th team in NBA history to win Game 7s in back-to-back series before the finals, with nine of the previous 11 losing their next series.

The latest loss mirrored the 107-97 defeat in Game 4 when the Celtics shot 30.8% in the final quarter, with Tatum missing four of five shots in both games and missing two free throws on Monday night.

"Part of that could be fatigue," coach Ime Udoka said. "Expended a lot. Obviously, him playing 44 minutes, he was one of our main guys rolling. When he got it going in the third, we rolled him a little bit longer there. The bench production wasn't as sharp as usual, so we ran Jayson longer. Some of that fatigue and decision making could play a part in the fourth quarter."

The Celtics have had to ride Tatum hard this postseason after sweeping Brooklyn in the first round. Boston then needed seven games to beat Milwaukee in the second round, including a road win in Game 6, and seven against Miami in the Eastern Conference finals capped by a Game 7 road win.

That has led to Tatum playing 943 minutes already this postseason, the most for a player since LeBron James played 960 in 2013 for Miami.

"That probably has something to do with the misses," Udoka said. "Not only free throws but some of his 3-pointers being off a bit."

Tatum isn't alone in struggling in the fourth quarter. Running mate Jaylen Brown went just 1 for 4 in the fourth quarter Monday with both stars playing more than 44 minutes.

"I wanted to be on the floor," Brown said. "Ime trusted me to be out there. Over the course of the game, we made some good plays. We were in it. I felt like we just couldn't get over the hump."

Now the Celtics will try to change their fortunes back home in Game 6 on Thursday night.

If the Celtics do manage to pull off the comeback and become the 10th team to overcome a 3-2 finals deficit and the fifth to do it without both games at home, it would cap a historic playoff run.

Only one team has ever won three Game 7s in a single postseason, with the Lakers doing it in 1988, beating Utah, Dallas and Detroit at home on the way to a repeat title.

Boston would have to do it by winning two Game 7s on the road, something that has never been done in a single postseason.

"You better be confident, right?" Tatum said. "We ain't got to win two in one day. We just got to win one game on Thursday. We've been in this situation before. So it's not over. Got to win on Thursday. That's all we got to worry about right now."

NBA's Montrezl Harrell facing felony marijuana charge

RICHMOND, Ky. (AP)—Charlotte Hornets forward Montrezl Harrell is facing a felony drug charge after authorities said they found vacuum-sealed bags of marijuana in his car during a traffic stop.

Harrell, 28, was pulled over in Richmond, Kentucky, by a state trooper May 12 for driving behind a vehicle too closely, news outlets reported Monday, citing court records.

The trooper said he smelled marijuana and, after a search, discovered 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms) of marijuana in vacuum-sealed bags inside a backpack in the backseat.

Harrell has been charged with trafficking less than 5 pounds (2.3 kilograms) of marijuana. If convicted on that count, he could face up to five years in prison. He is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on July 13 in Madison County District Court.

Harrell, a former star for the University of Louisville, has played seven seasons in the NBA, including three seasons with the Los Angeles Clippers and two with the Houston Rockets. He joined the Hornets in February but was due to become an unrestricted free agent this summer, according to the Charlotte Observer.

It was not immediately clear whether Harrell had an attorney who could comment on his behalf. The Hornets declined comment, according to the Charlotte Observer.

Islander Car Rental is Mini Games bronze sponsor

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The list of sponsors for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 grew longer with Islander Car Rental's $10,000 in-kind donation to the quadrennial event, which will have its opening ceremony tomorrow at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The company affirmed its bronze sponsorship of the Games last Tuesday when managing director Simon Odoca and staff Mary Grace Bautista, Leah Capuyon, and Aileen Contrerasn turned over the $10,000 check to representatives of the Mini Games Organizing Committee at Islander Car Rental's main office along Airport Road.

As part of the sponsorship, the company provided a special rate for athletes and officials taking part in the Games.

After the check presentation, Odoca said "We're very fortunate that we were able to be one of the co-sponsors for the Pacific Mini Games. It's a very momentous occasion and it's a very big challenge for the PMG committee to set up this event here on island and we're very happy that we're here to be able to support the PMG committee members. Good luck, good luck to all the athletes participating in all the events."

Mini Games transportation supervisor Marie Manebo said, "on behalf of our CEO Ben Babauta, the whole MGOC, and chair Marco Peter, we thank Islander Rental Car for their support in the Pacific Mini Games. They're one of our biggest organizations that's helping out. They are a bronze sponsor and without them, our transportation would be impossible."

Meanwhile, 58 more athletes and technical delegates arrived Tuesday from Guam, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Palau.

LEIGH GASES

Islander Car Rental representatives Mary Grace Bautista, corporate planning/marketing manager, second left; Leah Capuyon, accountant; Aileen Contreras, corporate secretary; and Simon Odoca, managing director, hand over the $10,000 check to some members of the Mini Games Organizing Committee, including Marie Manebo, transportation supervisor, second right, Tuesday morning at the company's main office along Airport Road.

LSG Sky Chefs donates $50K to Mini Games

The spirit of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 is stronger than ever here in the CNMI. As we get closer to the start of the NMPMG2022, another local business has stepped up and contributed to the Games. The NMPMG Organizing Committee would like to recognize NMI company LSG Sky Chefs. LSG Sky Chefs has donated $50,000 to the NMPMG Organizing Committee, ensuring the success of the Games.

"We are grateful for LSG's generous donation. Much like our other NMPMG2022 business partners, LSG sees what the Games are bringing to the NMI and is in full support," said NMPMGOC chair Marco Peter.

LSG's donation will allow for the NMPMGOC to further support the operations of the Games, accommodations for athletes, and provide food for the athletes.

According to NMPMGOC CEO Ben Babauta, "LSG has been a business partner in the NMI for decades. We are grateful for their donation."

He added that NMPMGOC would like to thank LSG for their support of the NMPMG2022 and generous contribution and recognize that LSG has been added to a large list of business contributors who want a successful Games.

"The community is coming together. It is with great pride to see the hard work, donations and support flood in. The NMI is ready and our people are ready for the Games to begin." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LSG Sky Chefs staff pose with Mini Games Organizing Committee staff after the company turned over $50,000 for the successful hosting of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Watch Mini Games 2022 live!

The Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee is proud to announce the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 will be broadcasted live on the Pacific Mini Games YouTube channel.

"With over 1,000 athletes participating in the Games and a staff of 400 hailing from 20 countries, the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games will be an event for the record books. This is the first time the NMI has ever hosted the Games, and we wanted to make sure everyone is able to participate and tune in," said PMGOC chair Marco Peter.

For the complete Games schedule and access to the Pacific Mini Games YouTube channel where the events will be broadcasted live, check out www.northernmarianas2022.com. Cheer for your favorite athlete or nation and join in on the fun and excitement of the Pacific Mini Games. ***(PR)***

SAPONG

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sent the CNMI and let's wave that flag all the way… I love you guys."

After the festivities of the night ended, Tarkong, a Marshal Services Division officer, was asked how he felt after being chosen as one of the flag bearers.

"This is a great honor… I appreciate it. I was kind of surprised. Maybe it has something to do with that Athlete of the Year [award], I don't know. I try to represent not only our islands, but… as a human being, just to be nice and to do good, think positive, and try to share the knowledge with the youth and I love working with the youth. Other than that, I like working with a team and coming up with great ideas about how we can always get better, so to hold the flag and represent the NMI, wow, it's a great honor."

Tarkong jokingly added "So I'm thankful to my peers, and to those who chose me for it. It was a surprise. We were kind of joking about it… I thought they would pick someone more handsome, somebody with more hair than me, but… it was me."

He was then asked how he felt about the NMI outrigger team going into the Mini Games and he said "Tahiti is No. 1… in Polynesia, and pretty much in the world. So, they have the best times…" He then added, "Wallis and Futuna, New Caledonia, Polynesian teams seem to be the best… and we look forward to competing against the best in the world."

Sapong seconded Tarkong when she said it's indeed a great honor to be chosen as Team NMI's flag bearer for the Mini Games.

"It's exciting. It's really an honor to be able to bear the flag, especially when we're competing here on our homeland. So, I'm excited to do that. Usually, it's off-island and we don't have as many supporters where we're at. It's really just the local community and then whoever's watching us online, but at least here we'll have our families… and everybody, so that'll be exciting."

She added that she feels ready for the Mini Games after the Oceania Athletics Championships last week.

"It's been three years since my last competition so it was really an eye-opener for my tune up. I got a look at what I was lacking in and hopefully I can get those fixed. I can do better here," said the wireless inventory assistant at IT&E.

NMI

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steeplechase), Lyle Andrew (discus), Michael Rodgers (100m, 200m, 400m), Zarinae Sapong (100m, 200m), Theodore Rodgers (100m, 200m, 400m), Charles McDonald (200m), Tiana Cabrera (5,000, 1,500m), Liamwar Rangamar (javelin), Michael Mancao (800m, 1,500m, steeplechase), Orrin Pharmin (octathlon), Tania Tan (5,000m, 10K, and half marathon), Alexander Camacho (long jump, 100m), Richard Ogumoro (shotput), Zyrus Bata (800m, steeplechase), Kina Rangamar (400m), Kaitlyn Chavez (800m, steeplechase), Cheraline Epity (shotput, discus, javelin), Mark Mapeso (shotput, discus), Anthony Borja (shotput, discus), and Denis Borja (shotput, discus).

Athletics will have 18 countries participating, namely American Samoa with two athletes, Australia with 14, Cook Islands with one, FSM with four, Fiji with 61, Guam with 13, Kiribati with 13, Nauru with 12, New Caledonia with 44, Northern Marianas with 23, Palau with six, PNG with 47, Samoa with 10, Solomon Islands with 41, Tahiti with 20, Tonga with five, Tuvalu with three, and Vanuatu with eight. It will be held at the Oleai track & field from June 21 to 25.

PNG dominated the athletics events in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, bagging 51 medals (14 gold, 20 silver, and 17 bronze). Fiji and New Caledona finished 1-2 in the medal standings in the sport with 20 (10 gold, 7 silver, 3 bronze) and 19 (9 gold, 7 silver, 3 bronze) medals, respectively.

SWIMMERS

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bests in most if not all events and we might get a good look at an age group record or two, maybe even a national record," he said.

As far as events are concerned, Tenorio will swim the 50m and 100m backstroke, Akimaru the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle, Batallones the 50m and 100m breaststroke, and Thompson the 50m and 100m freestyle. In addition, all four will swim the 4x100m freestyle and 4x100m mixed medley.

Tenorio said he's currently in Japan for training but will meet his teammates in Korea.

"I feel great and I hope the team will perform as good as we did last time. I am confident that I will come back with good results!"

Akimaru said he's thrilled to compete in his first World Championships in Budapest.

"I feel a little bit nervous leaving today but still feel like it will be a very good experience for me. I do not know how I will do in the race but I will just try my best."

He added that he would've liked more time to train for the World Championships.

"But we worked on what we can and to have the best performance we can have!"

For Batallones, who had been training five times a week, competing in Budapest has brought some excitement and a bit of anxiety.

"I have very mixed emotions. Mostly excited and ready. I expect to have good results. I am super excited since this is my first World Champs. I'm sure my team and I will do great. The training leading to World Champs of course was not easy. Although it wasn't easy, I am sure it's worth doing. Now it is the time to put all my hard work to use. I can't wait to meet new people from around the world, and also make the CNMI proud."

Like her teammate Batallones, Thompson admitted that nerves are definitely present as the reality of competing at the World Championships have finally sunk in.

"However I am mostly eager to race. It is an incredible experience we are about to experience and I'm utterly grateful that I had been given this opportunity to swim for the CNMI with my teammates. I believe that there is always room for improvements when we get back but for now, I will do my best to give my absolute all with every event I dive into. Though we are a tiny island compared to the big countries we are competing against, island pride will be shown through our personal times and the effort we put in our swims to make the CNMI proud!"

Thompson added they will compete in the highest level of the sport sans an Olympic-size pool to train in.

"Our training process was not ideal as we do not have access to a pool everyday of the week. However, our coach had worked to get us access to swim at [Pacific Islands Club] twice a week to practice our sprints, turns, and stroke work. Our coach really pushed us to our limits near the end of our practices and never missed a day during our training process to make sure he is by our side correcting our stroke, timing our swims, and making sure we are not goofing around too much!" she said.

Mikolas 1 strike short of no-hitter; Cards sweep Pirates

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Sapong, Tarkong named NMI flag bearers

By LEIGH GASES
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Jason Tarkong of outrigger canoe and Zarinae Sapong of athletics will serve as Team NMI's flag bearers during the Northern Marianas Pacific Games 2022's opening ceremony set tomorrow at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The 2021 Northern Marianas Sports Association male and female athletes of the year were bestowed the honor during the Team NMI Presentation held Tuesday night at the Taga Hall of World Resort Saipan.

Tarkong and Sapong were invited on stage and were seen beaming with pride as they hoisted up the CNMI flags that they will hold in the opening ceremony of the Mini Games.

Prior to revealing the flag bearers and presenting the NMI teams, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gave a speech to the athletes and officials in attendance and asked them to give back to the next generation of athletes.

"You have your coaches who have been in your sport for many years and have put their time and love for the sport to show you what experiences they have had. It's your turn to give back to the community and to the next generation. So, with that said, I want to personally thank all of you. We repre-

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LEIGH GASES

Athletics' Zarinae Sapong, left, holds the CNMI flag alongside *va'a's* Jason Tarkong after both were named Team NMI flag bearers for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 opening ceremony.

NMI Athletics 'ready to rise up to the challenge'

By MARK RABAGO
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Members of the CNMI National Athletics Team will have their work cut out for them with the region's titans of track and field competing in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Don't tell that to national coach Dr. Ron Snyder though, as despite Pacific Games powerhouses Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and New Caledonia's looming presence in the Games, he believes Team NMI can salvage a medal or two in the 11th staging of the quadrennial event.

"I think the team will do well. They have been training hard and have grown tremendously. We are a young team and our training has been greatly hampered with the loss of the track but we are ready to rise up to the challenge. I am hoping for some medals and many personal bests," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

It can be recalled that the Oleai track & field underwent resurfacing for a couple of months leaving the athletics team to look for alternative venues to train.

This has resulted in Snyder's team having no sort of home-court advantage when the athletics events unfurl on Tuesday, June 21.

"I don't think there is much of a home soil advantage since we have not been able to train on our track. So, we are learning its quirks at the same time as the other teams. But I am hoping for some amazing NMI cheering from our community members and that will assuredly help."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some members of the CNMI National Athletics Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 pose a group photo at the Oleai track & field.

Named to the 23-person CNMI National Athletics Team are Rex Pixley (5,000m, 1,500m), Denise Myers (steeplechase, 5,000m), Casey Cruz (100m, 200m, 400m), Sildrey Veloria (5,000m, 1,500m,

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Swimmers off to World Champs in Budapest

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Taiyu Akimaru, coach Richard Sikkel, Maria Batallones, Jinie Thompson, and assistant coach Ally Pourmonir will represent the CNMI in the 2022 FINA World Championship in Budapest, Hungary. Juhn Tenorio, currently training in Japan, will meet up with them in Korea.

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The CNMI National Swimming Team for the 2022 FINA World Championship left for Budapest, Hungary yesterday.

Taiyu Akimaru, Maria Batallones, and Jinie Thompson will meet up with the fourth member of the team, Juhn Tenorio, in Korea where they will catch a connecting flight to Doha, Qatar before proceeding to Budapest for the FINA World Championship set from June 18 to July 3.

National coach Richard Sikkel will leave Saipan today and will rendezvous with the team, who left with assistant coach Ally Pourmonir.

Sikkel said the team is in good shape and are in good spirits before their flight to Budapest.

"Morale is great. Everyone is excited to compete in Budapest. It will be the first time in a long time since any of the swimmers has been in a 50m pool. I am expecting personal

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